

STARS STRIPES®

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touts president
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Bassist Robert Trujillo

Volume 2, No. 145 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

Hundreds of students held captive in Russia

Casualties reported as bomb-wearing attackers seize school Page 8

Camp unknown

Frequent base name changes in Iraq cause
confusion for air evacuation squads

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PETER PHOTINO/Stars and Stripes
Photo courtesy of DVIC

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NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

States

Hurricane Charley damage: Hurricane Charley's strong winds flattened more than 12,000 homes in Florida, but building experts say hardly any of those were built with strengthened construction rules the state adopted three years ago.

In the first test of the new building standards, the new requirements and thousands of new homes stood up to the strongest 145 mph winds.

Oklahoma bridge collapse: Federal safety officials on Tuesday said that an alert system could have warned a towboat crew that its pilot had fainted and prevented the deadly collapse of the Interstate 40 bridge near Webbers Falls, Okla., in 2002.

The National Transportation Safety Board also said fewer people might have died had there been a warning system to alert motorists that the Arkansas River bridge had fallen. The safety board found that some of the 14 people killed in the accident could not stop before driving over the edge of the collapsed bridge. Two Texans were among the victims.

The Oklahoma bridge collapse is a reminder that bridges are vulnerable to both accidents and terrorist attacks.

Hospital inspector fraud: A former hospital safety inspector accused of faking his credentials, falsifying radiation tests and mislabeling mammography equipment at dozens of East Coast hospitals pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal fraud charges.

Perry Beale, of Fredericksburg, worked as a private consultant for more than 50 facilities in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

Prosecutors said Beale began working in 1988 as an apprentice to a medical physicist and radiation safety officer in Maryland.

D.C.-area sniper case: Convicted sniper

John Allen Muhammad complained to a judge Tuesday that his lawyers refuse to let him wear underwear and have restricted his access to his legal files.

A sheriff's spokeswoman denied the claims made at the conclusion of a pretrial hearing in the second capital-murder case against Muhammad. The trial is scheduled for October.



Muhammad

Ohio highway shootings: A man charged in a series of highway shootings in Ohio, including one that killed a woman, is changing his plea to innocent by reason of insanity, one of his attorneys said Wednesday.

Charles A. McCoy Jr.'s change in plea from innocent, to innocent by reason of insanity, was being filed Wednesday morning in court, attorney Andrew Haney said. McCoy, 29, suffers from paranoid schizophrenia, according to court documents and his attorneys.

McCoy is charged in shootings that occurred from October through February, including the death of a 62-year-old woman in November.

War on terrorism

Stain Nepalese hostages: Nepal's government imposed an indefinite curfew and appealed for calm Wednesday after thousands of demonstrators ransacked a mosque and clashed with police in the capital to protest the slaying of 12 Nepalese hostages by Iraqi militants.



Virginia flooding: Officials and residents look at a sinkhole caused by heavy rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Gaston in Richmond, Va. The unexpectedly heavy and fast downpour led to widespread flooding that left six dead and devastated a historic neighborhood.

Protesters also attacked the offices of at least two dozen agencies that send workers abroad, throwing furniture and documents into the streets and burning buildings.

Terror suspects arrested: Pakistani authorities have arrested two terror suspects, including a man believed to be a senior al-Qaida operative, security officials and the Information Ministry said Wednesday.

The suspects, a man believed to be an Egyptian named Sharif al-Misri and another man of Middle Eastern origin, were arrested two to three days ago in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a senior government official told The Associated Press on condition his name not be used.

Iraq oil: Iraq's southern oil terminals are fully operational, with exports running at between 1.7 million and 1.9 million barrels a day, port agents and Iraqi oil officials said Wednesday.

A port agent in the Persian Gulf, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that last week's sabotage attacks on pipelines in southern Iraq did not appear to have affected exports. The agent said the terminals in the south were fully operational.

World

Liberia disarmament: The United Nations on Wednesday gave fighters from Liberia's 1999-2003 civil war two months to disarm or face legal action.

The fighters have been granted amnesty from the West African country's gun laws in hopes of encouraging them to give up their weapons.

This amnesty will end Oct. 30, the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Liberia said.

Israel bus bombs: Israel is holding Syria

responsible for a double suicide bombing that killed 16 people, a senior Israeli official said Wednesday, implying that Israel might retaliate.

The violent Islamic Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack Tuesday in the desert city of Beersheba, when two bombers from the West Bank city of Hebron blew themselves up seconds apart in two buses.

Rannan Gissin, a senior aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, pointed to Syria. He said Hamas leaders operate out of Damascus.

The twin bombings in Beersheba shattered hopes in Israel that the period of suicide attacks — more than 100 in four years — was over.

Thatcher coup plot accusations: Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has posted bail for her son, Mark, who is accused of involvement in a coup plot in Equatorial Guinea, a source close to Lady Thatcher said Wednesday.

Lord Bell, Lady Thatcher's spokesman, declined to confirm or deny the report, which first appeared in The Times newspaper.

However, a source close to the former prime minister confirmed to The Associated Press that she had provided the bail money.

Sir Mark Thatcher was under house arrest at his residence in Cape Town pending the posting of a bond set at \$300,000, Equatorial Guinea wants to question him and his alleged co-conspirators on charges of plotting to overthrow Teodoro Obiang, the president of the tiny but oil-rich nation.

Thatcher's lawyer says he's innocent and will cooperate with investigators.

Stories and photos from wire reports



Thatcher

Militants free 7 kidnapped truck drivers

Gunmen fire on convoy of former council member Chalabi

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants in Iraq freed seven foreign truck drivers Wednesday after holding them six weeks, while Muslims united behind calls for the release of two French reporters captured by a separate group demanding that France revoke a ban on Muslim head scarves in schools.

Also Wednesday, gunmen shot at a convoy carrying former Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi, wounding two bodyguards, as he returned from Najaf to attend the first meeting of Iraq's 100-member National Council, which is to act as a watchdog over the interim government and help shepherd the nation to elections. The council was formally sworn in at the Baghdad convention center, in a ceremony marred by a nearby mortar attack that injured one person, the U.S. military said.

Port agents and Iraqi oil officials said Iraq's southern oil terminals were fully operational and exports through them were running at between 1.7 million and 1.9 million barrels a day. There had been conflicting reports earlier in the week over whether new attacks on oil facilities had shut down shipments.

Hostage-taking has been one of the tactics used by militants in waging a 16-month-old campaign of sabotage, assassinations and bombings seeking to destabilize Iraq and drive out coalition forces and reconstruction workers. Some kidnappers have also taken hostages in an effort to extort ransom from their families and companies.

The Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co. said it paid \$500,000 to secure the release of its seven employees — three Kenyans, three Indians and one Egyptian — on Wednesday, a day after a video surfaced on a militant Muslim Web site showing the purported killing of 12 Nepalese workers kidnapped in Iraq.

The men, who were abducted on July 21, were freed after a team of company employees drove under armed guard to an unspecified location in Iraq where the drivers were being held to pay the ransom, KGL chief executive Said Dashti said.

"They (the kidnappers) were not trying to make a political statement. They were purely extortionists," Dashti said shortly after the freed hostages landed in Kuwait.

The seven men had been kidnapped by a group calling itself The Holders of the Black Banners, which demanded the truckers' home governments pull all their citizens out of Iraq and that their Kuwaiti employer withdraw as well. It later also de-



Seven hostages, from India, Kenya and Egypt, are seen at an undisclosed location just before their release Wednesday in Iraq. The truck drivers had been kidnapped on July 21 by a group calling itself The Holders of the Black Banners.

manded that Iraqi prisoners in Kuwait and U.S. prisoners be freed and compensation be paid to victims of fighting in Baghdad.

The group repeatedly extended a deadline hanging over the hostages as local mediators worked on a deal for their release.

Last Thursday, the kidnappers dropped nearly all their demands and said they would free the hostages if their employer agreed to stop working in Iraq.

On Friday, Rana Abu-Za'ne, an official at the company, said it had agreed. Soon after, the kidnappers prepared to release the men.

"They told us about two days ago that [we] were being released and we felt very happy, and we did not sleep out of our joy," one of the released hostages, Egyptian Mohammed Ali Sana, told the Arabic television station Al-Arabiya.

The announcement of their release sparked celebrations in their home countries. "My joy today is as big as the whole world. I feel he is born again," said Sana's mother, Nadia al-Shanawani.

In a video given to news agencies soon after the release, the seven hostages stand against a wall as a masked militant goes down the line shaking each captive's hand, giving him a hug and handing him a

Quran, another Islamic book and what appears to be a CD or cassette.

A voiceover warned "all companies that work with the occupiers of the black destiny awaiting them in Iraq if they continue with this work."

The French hostage crisis persisted, with Arab leaders and Muslims worldwide trying to help save journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, who disappeared Aug. 19 on their way from Baghdad to the southern city of Najaf. Their Syrian chauffeur also vanished.

A group calling itself the Islamic Army of Iraq claimed to be holding the two, demanding France abolish its ban on Muslim head scarves in public schools. French leaders refused, insisting the ban would take effect when schools open their fall term on Thursday.

Diverse organizations ranging from the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which claimed responsibility for deadly twin bombings in Israel on Tuesday, to Sunni and Shiite Iraqi religious leaders issued statements on behalf of the hostages in a show of support not seen previously in efforts to free more than 100 foreigners kidnapped in Iraq in recent months.

France's government has won friends in the region by opposing the U.S.-led war in Iraq and by following generally pro-Arab policies.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 975 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 729 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 837 U.S. troops have died — 620 as a result of hostile action and 217 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Tuesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 6,916 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

■ The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Nickalous N. Al-drich, 21, Austin, Texas, died Friday in a vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Sgt. Edgar E. Lopez, 27, Los Angeles; killed Saturday in Babil province, Iraq, in hostile action; assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Aaron N. Holleyman, 26, Glasgow, Mont.; killed Monday in Khutayyah, Iraq, when his vehicle hit an explosive; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Ky.

■ Air Force Airman 1st Class Carl L. Anderson Jr., 21, Georgetown, S.C.; killed Sunday near Mosul, Iraq, in hostile action; assigned to the 3rd Logistics Regiment, Soudon, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

■ Army Spc. Omead H. Razani, 19, Los Angeles; died Friday in Habbaniyah, Iraq, of nonhostile causes; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, Korea.

Charges expected against GIs in Afghan prison abuse

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About two dozen U.S. soldiers have been implicated in an Army criminal investigation into the deaths nearly two years ago of two detainees in U.S. custody in Afghanistan, a senior defense official said Wednesday.

The official, who discussed the matter on the condition of anonymity, said the probe is not yet complete.

The Washington Post reported in its Wednesday editions that the

Army is expected to begin filing charges soon against 26 soldiers.

Investigators have recommended bringing abuse-related charges ranging from negligent homicide to dereliction of duty and failure to report an offense, the Post reported.

One sergeant has already been charged, the newspaper said.

A Pentagon spokesman said he had no information about the Post report.

Christopher Grey, spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Belvoir,

Va., would not confirm whether any U.S. soldiers have been implicated in the probe or what units are under investigation.

"We do have an investigation ongoing and are nearing completion of that investigation," Grey said Wednesday.

The senior defense official, who asked not to be identified because the investigation is not yet officially complete, said most of the people implicated in the case were not directly involved in the abuse but witnessed it or were otherwise aware of it but failed to

report the wrongdoing.

In Afghanistan, a spokeswoman for the military said it "welcomes investigation into alleged criminal acts with the goal of determining justice."

"Of course, the accused are innocent until proven guilty," Lt. Col. Susan Meisner said in a e-mail. She did not address the details of the Post's report.

The military has spent more than a year investigating the deaths of the two prisoners at the U.S. base in Bagram, Afghanistan, in December 2002. One died

of a pulmonary embolism due to blunt-force injuries to the legs, the other from blunt-force injuries to his lower extremities complicating coronary artery disease.

Most of the soldiers facing charges are from the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 5th Army, which is based at the 377th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit based in Cincinnati.

Some members of the 519th intelligence unit were later deployed to the base and also have been implicated in the abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison that occurred in late 2003.

Last charge requested as England hearing ends

By ALLEN G. BREED

The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Prosecutors ended a military court hearing Tuesday for a soldier shown in infamous photos of naked Iraqi prisoners by requesting an additional charge of "mal-treatment and cruelty" against Pfc. Lynndee England.

The hearing to determine whether England should face a full court-martial adjourned without testimony from any of the high-level witnesses sought by the defense, including Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Investigating officer Col. Denise Arm said she would recommend within a week whether England should face a court-martial.

During closing arguments at Fort Bragg, Capt. Crystal Jennings, a military prosecutor, read from the

21-year-old Army reservist's own statements that she stepped on prisoners' toes and posed for and took photos of naked detainees

pled in human pyramids and being forced to simulate homosexual acts.

"She was having fun," Jennings said. "There was no indication that she was there for any mili-

tary purpose."

The defense has said England and other members of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company abused prisoners under orders from military intelligence agents to "soften up" prisoners for interrogation.

Civilian defense attorney Rick Hernandez said outside court that with all the recent reports about problems in military prisons, "obviously Pfc. England was not acting alone."

But Jennings said there was no evidence England ever was given an order to mistreat prisoners. In fact, Jennings said, England repeatedly violated orders to stay out of the part of the prison where the abuse occurred.

"If she was given an order, it was an unlawful order" that En-

gland was obliged to disobey, Jennings said. "She was not an MP. She was a [personnel] clerk ... who was not recruited into some secret mission. She was there to have some fun."

England is the woman shown in now-infamous photographs holding a naked Iraqi prisoner by a leash, smiling and pointing at a hooded detainee's genitals and posing behind a pyramid of nude Iraqis.

The Fort Ashby, W.Va., native, reportedly eight months pregnant with the child of another soldier changed in the scandal, has attended all but a few hours of the hearing, stepping out briefly on the opening day to visit her obstetrician.

Military officials have recommended charging her with 13

counts of abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos not involving detainees. If convicted, she could get up to 38 years in prison.

Jennings also told Arm she should recommend an additional charge of maltreatment and cruelty against England. The charge serves as a catch-all to encompass all the individual acts England is accused of and would carry an additional penalty of up to one year in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

Pvt. Jeremy Sivits has already pleaded guilty in the abuse scandal and is serving a year in prison. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick is set to enter a guilty plea in October.

4 Army generals could pay a price for indirect ties to Iraq prison abuse

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal could effectively end the careers of four Army generals who are linked indirectly to the misconduct but face no criminal charges.

The four are singled out for varying degrees of criticism — mixed with instances of praise — in two comprehensive investigative reports released last week. The investigators conclude that the generals are partly responsible, but not legally culpable, for the abuse last fall.

All four are "essentially finished in the military," even if they are not forced to resign, said Dan Goure, a defense analyst at the Lexington Institute think tank. "At the very minimum, you could argue that they lost control" of their subordinates, he said.

The most senior of the four generals, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, already has been passed over for promotion to a four-star slot as chief of Southern Command because of an expectation by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld that Sanchez would face trouble in a Senate confirmation hearing.

Sanchez was the top U.S. commander in Iraq until the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty in late June, when he returned to Army V Corps headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, where he is the commanding general.

Further complicating his situation is the fact that as V Corps commander he would normally be the person to make decisions about pursuing possible criminal charges against soldiers of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade who are implicated in the latest Army report. But since his own role in Iraq is under scrutiny, that responsibility may be shifted elsewhere.

Sanchez and his top deputy, Maj. Gen. Walter Wodjowski, are cited in an Army investigation for failing to ensure proper staff oversight of detainee and interrogation operations in Iraq, specifically at the Abu Ghraib prison where Iraqi detainees were physically abused and sexually humiliated by military police and intelligence soldiers in the fall of 2003.

That probe was conducted by Maj. Gen. George Fay and focused on the role of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade at Abu Ghraib, although it also assessed the performance of commanders and senior staff officers higher up the chain of command.

It found no evidence that the abuse was carried out under military orders, or in accordance with any Pentagon policy, but rather was attributed to personal misconduct and, in some cases, confusion and inadequate supervision.

Wodjowski had responsibility for detention operations at Abu Ghraib but was not based there. Separately, the intelligence soldiers who conducted interrogations at Abu Ghraib reported through Sanchez's intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast.

"These arrangements had the damaging result that no single individual was responsible for overseeing operations at the prison," according to a report by an independent panel of nongovernmental experts, headed by former defense secretary James Schlesinger, also released last week.

Fast, Wodjowski and Sanchez, as well as Janis Karpinski, the Army Reserve brigadier general who commanded the 800th Military Police Brigade in Iraq, are criticized in both the Fay and Schlesinger reports.

Fast also is praised. The Fay report says she orchestrated the reorganization of the intelligence setup in Iraq after she arrived in July 2003 amid an emerging anti-U.S. insurgency.

The Schlesinger report says Wodjowski failed to call for more military police at Abu Ghraib after it became clear that more were needed.

It faults Fast for improperly advising Sanchez on operating the interrogation center at Abu Ghraib and for failing to appropriately monitor the activities of the CIA, whose officers participated in some interrogations at the prison and who allegedly persuaded the Army to hold "ghost" detainees without registering them as required by law.

The Schlesinger report blamed Karpinski for leadership failures that "helped set the conditions at the prison which led to the abuses." She failed to ensure that Iraqi prisoners were protected by the Geneva Conventions and failed to deal with ineffective commanders below whom she recommended that she be relieved of command and given a letter of reprimand, which would essentially end her career.

Shortly before the Abu Ghraib scandal erupted last spring, the Army announced that Fast would take command of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and its Army Intelligence Center when she returned from Iraq.

However, she has been back since late July and has yet to be installed as commander.



England



Sanchez



Fast

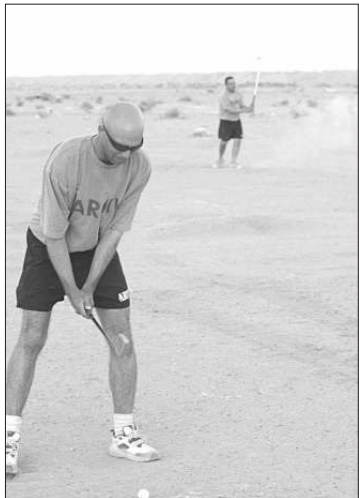


Karpinski



Wodjowski

Desert driving range



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Lucas Butz, front, and Staff Sgt. Gus Moreno, of Company A, 980th Engineer Battalion, pitch golf balls in the sand of Camp Duke, Iraq, on Monday. In June, Moreno's wife, Amy, mailed golf clubs to him while the unit was based in the Baghdad area. Butz's girlfriend, Lauren Horley, sent him extra sand wedges. The two soldiers fished it hit golf balls while at their Baghdad posting but have to be content with golfing at Duke.

Schweinfurt troops foil Iraq truck hijacking

Soldiers from E Troop, 4th Cavalry Regiment foiled a truck hijacking in Iraq Sunday and killed one of the hijackers, according to a news release from coalition authorities in Baghdad.

The incident occurred about 9:50 a.m. after guerrillas in a sedan seized a semi-trailer truck at a checkpoint near Samarra and attempted to drive off. The release said. The 4th Cavalry troops blocked the road and fired on the two vehicles. The truck hijacker was killed, but the sedan escaped.

E Troop is based in Schweinfurt, Germany, and has been deployed to Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division since February.

From staff reports

Permanent PX to open at camp in Iraq

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

CAMP DUKE, Iraq — Marines and soldiers assigned in the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's operating area are finally getting a permanent AAFES post exchange Friday, albeit one of the wheeled variety.

Gunnery Sgt. Kurt Dillard, PX sergeant with the 1st Force Service Support Group, has spent the past few days getting a large trailer, known as a tactical field exchange, ready for business.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's store will include about \$190,000 worth of products ranging from electronics and heavy aids to military clothing and snacks, Dillard said.

Marines say they're more interested in a long-neck Copenhagen than clean underwear.

"We can't get it in the market, we can't get it out in town," said Sgt. Jon Ross. "It'll definitely boost morale."

"Fresh Marlboro Lights," requested another Marine, saying that the local version tastes like they've been around "since the last war."

Duke has been without a PX for just about two months, officials say.

"Everyone's excited," said Lance Plc. Michael Crouse of the



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Cpl. Gee Vue, of Marine Service Support Group 11, shops at the Camp Duke, Iraq, post exchange on Wednesday. Vue and a few other Marines and soldiers who helped to open the exchange were able to shop before Friday's planned opening.

headquarters command element.

The store will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing only when the store hits the road.

"We'll leave here and do what we call a warfighter express ser-

vise team," said Dillard. "We actually take a couple of 7-ton trucks with products and go to the smaller camps for a day.

"Our first mission is to serve the guys in the remote, hostile

areas who don't have access to this," he said. "Our target is once every three weeks ... [but] we'll do it whenever they request it."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

At court-martial, video shows GI detailing flaws of Abrams tank

The Associated Press

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — A soldier accused of trying to pass military information to al-Qaida was shown in a videotape at his court-martial Tuesday detailing weaknesses of the Army's primary battle tank to undercover federal agents.

The audio was muted on segments of the tape, and a gray blur obstructed Spc. Ryan G. Anderson's mouth to block what he was saying at times. Prosecutors say Anderson believed the men were members of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

"I have no belief in what the American Army asked me to do," Anderson said on the video. "They sent me to die."

The second day of Anderson's court-martial was closed to the public for long stretches so the judge and jury of commissioned officers could hear sensitive or classified testimony.

On the tape, Anderson, a 27-year-old Muslim convert, offers sketches and information about weaknesses in the M1A1 Abrams and identifies the crew compartment, main gun and other components he described as vulnerable.

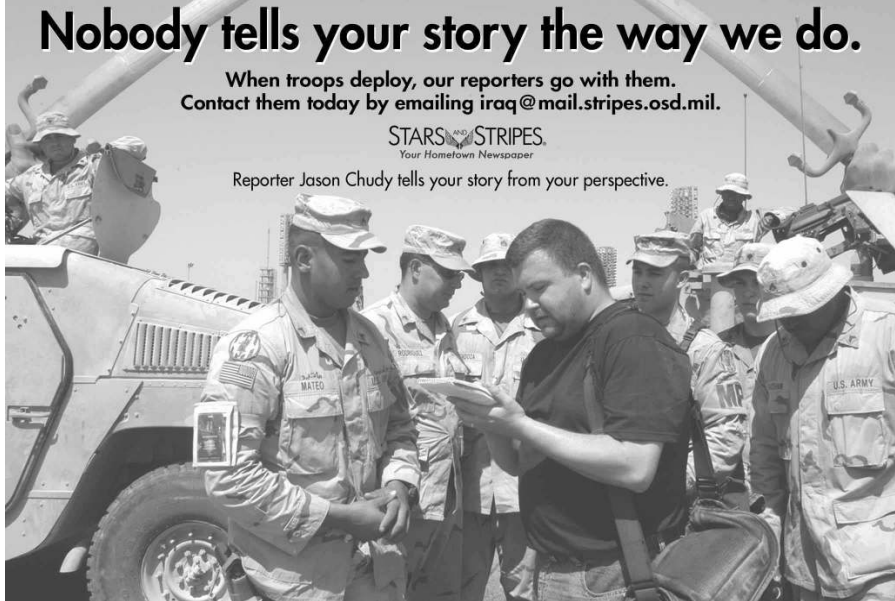
Prosecutors attempted to show that information on the tape could have endangered soldiers' lives.

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Reporter Jason Chudy tells your story from your perspective.



Identity crisis in Iraq: Camp changes confuse

Air crews concerned new names can hinder flights

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Baghdad's Green Zone, now known as the International Zone, may be the best-known name change of a major coalition base.

But other U.S. camps around Iraq are shifting monikers also, which air evacuation teams say is causing them problems when they are trying to fly wounded troops out of danger.

"They should just pick names, and have someone say, 'OK, that's it,'" said Sgt. Donald Marten, a medic for the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Ansbach, Germany, who are now in Tallil, Iraq. "No more changes."

Although pilots use ground controllers and grid coordinates to help them get to their destinations, air evacuation pilots memorize basic routes to various camps in their sectors.

Flying skills save lives because severely wounded patients must receive crucial care before "the golden hour" ends, trauma medical staffs said. If a patient can get to a well-equipped critical-care facility within 60 minutes, his chances of survival are drastically improved.

So far air evacuation flight crews in Iraq, every minute counts.

It takes about seven minutes for the 45th to get a helicopter out of the ground. Flight time to a casualty averages seven minutes, and it takes another seven minutes to get to the hospital in Baghdad's International Zone, according to one of the 45th's pilots-in-charge, Capt. Gerald Bonner.

So having to go back and check with a flight coordinator to make sure that the crew is flying to the camp it thinks it's supposed to be going — only to find it is headed for the wrong place — can cost precious minutes and possibly

lives, the air crews said.

But crews have no say over when a base can change its name, which could be for a number of reasons.

For example, Forward Operating Base Headhunter in Baghdad is now officially FOB Independence, according to Capt. Victor Scharstein, a spokesman for the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment.

Task force leaders decided to

If some senior officers and coalition officials in Iraq have their way, all the coalition bases in Iraq may adopt English transliterations of Arabic names.

change the name "to something less aggressive-sounding," Scharstein said.

But one specialist with the 153rd Infantry of the Arkansas National Guard, which is part of the 1-9 Cavalry, said he is "not crazy" about the new name.

"We [patrol] one of the worst sectors in Baghdad," Haifa Street, where attacks on U.S. convoys are so common they are the rule whenever troops venture out on missions, not the exception, the specialist said.

The soldier, who did not give his name, said changing the name of a camp is not going to change the way insurgents view the U.S. military. "I don't think it is going to make them suddenly decide, 'Oh, OK, they're cool.'"

Other posts are going through a re-labeling because the original name came from Operation Iraqi Freedom I units, which have since headed home.

Those early names may have plenty of historical meaning to their occupants, such as the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's "Camp Muleskinner" in Baghdad, but not to their successors.

Furthermore, some camps have their names changed to honor troops killed in Iraq.

For example, Camp Muleskinner was renamed Camp Cuervo by the 2nd ACR in honor of Pfc. Rey D. Cuervo of the unit's 1st Squadron, who died Dec. 28.

Two 1st Cavalry soldiers said Wednesday they think that any camps named after fallen troops should honor soldiers or Marines who are part of units currently deployed. But the soldiers asked not to be named because they did not want to seem disrespectful to their comrades' sacrifice, regardless of the unit.

Finally, if some senior officers and coalition officials in Iraq have their way, all the coalition bases in Iraq may adopt English transliterations of Arabic names (not Arabic script), said one 1st Cavalry staff officer who asked not to be named.

Advocates of the change believe that locals would be more comfortable and feel less "occupied" if coalition bases had Arabic monikers, the officer said.

While the idea is in the preliminary "kicking it around" stage, the officer said the notion concerns him.

"You think it's confusing now," he said. "Arabic is a difficult language for most of us. We are still struggling with the basic Arabic phrases."

"Change the bases to 'al-what-ever-this' or 'al-what-ever-that' ..."

"He shrugged."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.com



LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Pilot-in-charge Capt. Gerald Bonner of the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) helps reconfigure his Black Hawk's medical litter carousel before taking off from the unit's base at Tallil, Iraq. When every minute counts in saving wounded troops' lives, air crews say camp name changes that cause the crew to recheck flying routes can cost precious minutes. They'd like someone to order camp names to stop changing.

Messages of Support

★ I think this is to send a message. This is for PV2 Willie S. Stay strong. The kids and I will be waiting for you at the finish line. I love you, Your wife, Shawn

★ Thank you for all that you are doing. We are praying for you everyday. We wanted you to know that Montpelier, OH supports you.

★ Morgy Porgy (Morgen B. from Vancouver, WA)... We all love ya and are praying for you and all our boys over there. Come home safe, and soon!! We're so proud of you! Scott says hi! Send Bennie some mail so I can get your address, k? Vancouver isn't the same without you!! Many hugs and kisses..... Kathy.... yup, that's right...Bennie's mom that still looks 25! LOL <wink wink> See ya!

★ We are proud of you all and thank you for fighting for our freedom. We Love You, our Prayers are with you and God Bless You! From Kentucky

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Runway repairs at Ramstein to boost pace at Mildenhall

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Air and truck traffic will increase soon at RAF Mildenhall, England, as the base picks up the pace while the runway at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, undergoes needed repairs.

1st Col. Tim Taylor, operations officer for the 727th Air Mobility Squadron, said roughly 12 wide-body cargo aircraft each week and about 15 large trucks each day will be added to the flow of what will be a two-week increase in the workload.

During normal times, the base would receive two or three cargo aircraft each week and about three trucks each day.

"We're real excited about it, actually," said Taylor, who has been planning for the increase for about one month.

He said it is a good way to show the only aerial port in England is "up to the challenge and a viable option for any contingency in the future."

The runway at Ramstein will be closed fully or partially for about 10 days while it undergoes repairs. It will close on Sept. 23 and open fully again on Sept. 22.

During that time, cargo to support the military on the Continent and in the Middle East will fly to RAF Mildenhall and be trucked to the Theater Distribution Center in Kaiserslautern, Germany, Taylor said.

"We anticipate some delays," Taylor said, as the cargo is carried by truck more than 500 miles from England to the center. But that has been built into the system, he said, and customers

should see no change in delivery.

"We're getting a significant amount of help from Ramstein," he said.

"They're sending about 60 people [from the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron] to help us out," said Taylor. Plus, they will ship cargo-handling equipment — forklifts and the like — from Germany to England.

Taylor said the entire base would be involved.

The 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron, for example, will provide more fuel than normal and more buses for air crew transportation.

The folks in the billing office have been warned to expect some surprise guests if an aircraft breaks. The 100th Services Squadron is on call.

The 727th AMS employs about 100 Ministry of Defence workers, some of whom have been on the job more than 30 years. Taylor said their experience will be important.

"It's that whole Team Mildenhall concept," he said.

Taylor likened the effort to a big puzzle, with pieces coming and going, by truck and by aircraft.

"The systems are already in place to solve that puzzle," he said.

"It's just a matter of doing it on a larger scale."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.esr.mil

Several APOs to close Thursday-Saturday

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — At least 65 Army Post Offices across Europe will be closed Thursday, Friday or Saturday for organization day activities or the Labor Day weekend, said Bill Hilsher, postal operations director for U.S. Army Europe.

Thursday's closures affect all APOs in the region served by the 38th Personnel Services Battalion,

which includes Würzburg, Giebelstadt, Schweinfurt, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels and Bamberg.

Friday's closures affect the region served by the 510th Personnel Services Battalion, which includes Vicenza, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Stuttgart, Garmisch, Aachen and nearby communities.

Saturday's closures affect the regions served by the 55th and 90th Personnel Services Battalions, including Wiesbaden, Hanau, Baum-

holder, Kaiserslautern, Neubrücken and nearby areas.

There may be a ripple effect on the Community Mail Rooms. Mark Altherr, the Würzburg station manager, told customers the CMR would be open Thursday but would not pick up any new mail. Because many communities not listed here also are affected, Hilsher suggested calling the APO to check hours.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.esr.mil



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★ Im from Macon Ga and Im very proud of all of the soldiers fighting for freedom. I want all of yall know that each one of you are in my prayers and that yall are doing the right thing. God bless each one of you.
Thank You S. Goodwin.

★ I miss you so much Dan. Be Careful and I can't wait to see you. I am so proud of you. I love you so much. Be my hero and come home to me! Love you always and forever. Kathy

★ Hi Jeffy!! I am thinking of you always & sending my love! You make me so proud, big brother! Get home soon...I miss you! Love ya, Poushie :)

★ To our brave troops: No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, his well being, his life, in a great cause. Theodore Roosevelt. Thank you, Tim

IN THE WORLD

Up to 400 held as Russia school seized

Reports of fatalities; most held by militants are young children

BY MUSA SADULAYEV

The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Attackers wrapped in suicide-bomb belts raided a school in a region bordering Chechnya, seizing up to 400 hostages — including scores of students welcoming the new school year — and threatening to kill captives or blow up the building if it was stormed by encircling Russian troops.

Authorities established contact with the hostage-takers hours after the raid, which officials said left at least two people dead in the latest assault in a country the defense minister said has been challenged by a declaration of terrorist war. The ITAR-Tass news agency put the death toll at eight.

Troops carrying heavy-caliber machine guns scrambled into positions around School No. 1 in the North Ossetian town of Beslan. More than a thousand people, including distraught parents, crowded outside police cordons demanding information and accusing the government of not protecting their children.

One girl lay wounded near the school, but emergency workers could not approach because the area was coming under fire, said regional Emergency Situations Ministry Boris Dzygoyev. In a tense standoff, the militants placed a sniper on an upper floor of the building, and throughout the day the Russian media reported sporadic gunfire and the sound of explosions coming from the building.



Russian soldiers rescue an unidentified child in North Ossetia on Wednesday. More than a dozen attackers carrying guns and wrapped in suicide-bomb belts seized a school and were holding about 400 hostages, including some 200 children, news reports said.

The hostage-taking came less than 24 hours after a suicide bomber detonated her explosives outside a Moscow subway station, killing at least nine people, and just over a week after near simultaneous explosions caused two Russian planes to crash, killing all 90 people on board.

The string of attacks, widely suspected to be the work of separatist Chechen rebels or their sympathizers, come as a blow to President Vladimir Putin, who pledged five years ago to crush the rebels but instead has seen the insurgents increasingly strike civilian targets.

ITAR-Tass, citing local hospitals, said one person died at the scene and seven in

hospitals. Dzygoyev put the death toll at four, but the Federal Security Service chief for North Ossetia, Valery Andreyev, later said two civilians were killed and two wounded.

The school covers grades 1-11, but Dzygoyev said that most of the children taken hostage were under 14 years old.

At least 12 children and one adult managed to escape after hiding in the building's boiler room during the raid, said Russian Ayaymov, spokesman for North Ossetia's Interior Ministry.

Andreyev said that authorities were uncertain how many hostages and attacker were inside the building, but he said there might be 120-400 captives.

Moscow subway bombing victims remembered

BY JIM HEINTZ

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Distraught Moscow residents laid flowers Wednesday outside a subway station where a suicide bomber killed 10 people, while a militant Muslim group that claimed responsibility for the crash of two Russian airliners last week said it was also behind the latest attack.

Police promised heightened security on the sprawling city's transit system, one of the world's busiest and relied on by many of the city's estimated 10 million people. But the attack was only the latest in a string of violence in the capital and elsewhere that the government has appeared helpless to prevent.

Tuesday's blast, carried out by a female bomber, occurred almost exactly a week after two Russian planes crashed within minutes of each other in what officials say were terrorist attacks. All 90 people aboard the two planes were killed.

A militant Muslim web site published a statement claiming responsibility for the bombing on behalf of the "Islamobouli Brigades," a group that also claimed responsibility for the airliner crashes. The veracity of the statements could not immediately be confirmed.

The statement said Tuesday's bombing was a blow against President Vladimir Putin, "who slaughtered Muslims time and again."



U.N. calls for Sudan monitoring force increase

UNITED NATIONS — A U.N. report on Wednesday called for a quick increase in the international monitoring force in Sudan's western Darfur region, saying the government has not stopped attacks against civilians or disarmed marauding militias.

The report made clear that much more needs to be done as soon as possible to provide security for the more than 1.2 million "terrorized and traumatized" Sudanese who have fled their homes in the western desert region to escape the violence.

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Kabul free of heavy weapons for election

By AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's war-scarred capital was declared free of heavy weapons Wednesday, a key step in efforts to bolster security before critical national elections.

U.S., NATO and Afghan officials feted the commanders of the last unit to pull its big guns out of the city — and urged them and other militiamen to throw themselves into reconstructing the country.

"Bulldozers should replace tanks and cannons," Deputy Defense Minister Rahim Wardak told the ceremony in a dusty compound north of Kabul containing

dozens of tanks and artillery pieces. "AK-47s and pistols should make way for saws and axes."

Dismantling Afghanistan's feuding armed factions was a priority in the U.N.-sponsored peace plan drawn up after the militias grouped under the banner of the Northern Alliance helped the United States oust the Taliban in 2001.

Infighting has erupted across the north and west of the country this year, adding belated urgency to the disarmament drive.

But the effort has suffered repeated delays blamed on regional commanders wary of giving up their guns to President Hamid Karzai's U.S.-backed central government.

The United Nations warns that the failure to demilitarize the country leaves candidates and voters vulnerable to intimidation — as well as attacks from Taliban militants — in the Oct. 9 presidential vote.

Parliamentary elections have been delayed until April because of the lack of security.

Wardak said 2,300 heavy weapons had been rounded up around Kabul, the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and the southeastern city of Gardez.

Dozens of tanks and missiles have also emerged from the anti-Taliban stronghold in the Panjshir Valley, but the process is lagging in much of the country.

The militias are supposed to make way

for a new national army being trained by the United States. But that force only numbers about 13,000, far short of the intended 70,000.

A separate program to demobilize some 60,000 militia fighters and find them new jobs has also been snail-paced. Only about 12,000 have given up their guns so far.

Officials urged the mujahideen to recognize that the old battles have been won. "You have done your duty," Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, the U.S. officer in charge of training the Afghan National Army, told the militia officers at Wednesday's ceremony. "You can now turn over this mission to central government's security forces and you can put your energies into your own future, with new jobs."

Milosevic attacks war crimes charges

By ANTHONY DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Slobodan Milosevic attacked a prosecution theory Wednesday that he sought to carve out an ethnically pure "greater Serbia" in the broken Yugoslav federation, and branded the war crimes



Milosevic

indictments against him "a sheer mutilation of justice."

More than 2½ years after the trial of the former Yugoslav president began at the U.N. tribunal, Milosevic wound up his opening statement that began Tuesday as he laid out a series of complex conspiracies against his Serb people involving the Kosovo Liberation Army, Osama bin Laden, the Vatican, Croatian neo-Nazis and the CIA, among others.

Milosevic called his trial "a farce, pure and simple."

Charging that prosecutors had failed to prove any of the charges, he called the indictments a "sheer mutilation of justice. Nothing else. What it says there are empty words."

"This indictment represents a sum of unscrupulous manipulation, lies, crippling of the law, and an unjust presentation of the history," he said.

In his statement, Milosevic contested prosecution allegations that he fanned Serbian nationalism and instigated a decade of Balkan wars.

"In two years, you have not presented a shred of evidence" to support the charges, Milosevic told the court.

Milosevic faces 66 counts of war crimes allegedly committed in Croatia, Bosnia, and Kosovo during the 1990s. He could be jailed for life if convicted on any charge.

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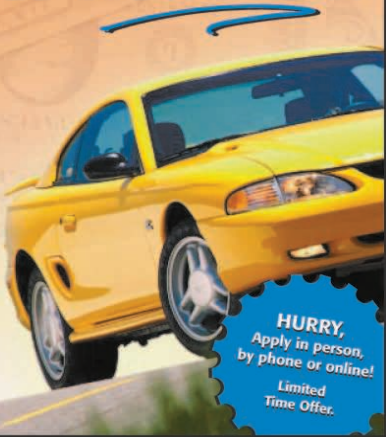
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IN THE STATES

Justice agrees terror conviction of Detroit men should be tossed

BY JOHN SOLOMON AND CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic reversal, the Justice Department acknowledges its original prosecution of a suspected terror cell in Detroit was filled with a "pattern of mistakes and oversights" that warrant the dismissal of the convictions.

In a 60-page memo that harshly criticizes its own prosecutors' work, the department told U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen on Tuesday night it supports the Detroit defendants' request for a new trial and would no longer pursue terrorism charges against them.

The defendants at most would only face fraud charges at a new trial.

The Justice Department is "concurring in the defendants' motions for a new trial" and asks the court to dismiss the first round of the original indictment charging the defendants with material support of terrorism, the government's filing said.

The department's decision came after a months-long internal investigation uncovered several pieces of evidence that prosecutors failed to turn over to defense lawyers before the trial last year.

The probe exposed deep differences within the government over the course of the case and the quality of the prosecution's evidence.

The internal investigation of prosecutorial misconduct found enough problems that there is "no reasonable prospect of winning," the government conceded, drawing back from a case once hailed by the Bush administration as a major victory in the war on terror.

The decision was hailed by lawyers for the Detroit men who were convicted last year.

"We're extremely grateful," William Swor, lawyer for defendant Abdel-Iah Elmaroudi, said Wednesday. "It's a major victory."

Swor said the dropping of the terrorism charges leaves the government with "a garden-variety document case" against his client. "Our work is just beginning," he said.

In a June 2003 jury verdict hailed by the administration as the breakup of a terror cell, Karim Koubrti, 26, and Elmaroudi, 38, were convicted on terrorism and fraud charges, and Ahmed Hannan, 36, was convicted of fraud. A fourth defendant, Farouk Ali-Haimoud, 24, was acquitted.



Plywood is a valued commodity at the Home Depot in Florida City, Fla., on Wednesday, as residents prepare for Hurricane Frances to hit the state. The state is still trying to recover from Hurricane Charley.

350,000 Floridians told to evacuate

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Hundreds of thousands of people were told Wednesday to get ready to evacuate as powerful Hurricane Frances crept closer to Florida just weeks after Hurricane Charley's rampage.

Generators were hefted off store shelves, along with water, canned goods and other emergency supplies as forecasters warned the core of the Category 4 storm could reach 140 mph top sustained winds due along Florida's Atlantic coast late Friday or early Saturday.

Charley left billions of dollars in damage and 27 people dead when it swept across the peninsula Aug. 13.

"I can't emphasize enough how powerful this is. If there's something out there that's going to weaken it, we haven't seen it," National Hurricane Center director Max Mayfield said.

About 300,000 residents in coastal areas of Palm

Beach County were told to evacuate starting 2 p.m. Thursday.

In Rockledge, about 45 miles southeast of Orlando, Brevard County told at least 50,000 residents to start evacuating mobile homes and barrier islands Thursday afternoon. In Stuart about 85 miles south, Martin County planned to urge up to 7,500 residents to evacuate low-lying areas starting at noon Thursday. More evacuation orders along Florida's east coast were likely.

The Kennedy Space Center planned to close Thursday and Friday to allow workers time to evacuate if necessary, said NASA spokesman George Diller. Helicopters and planes left Patrick Air Force Base.

Frances was nearing the Bahamas with steady strength, but it was expected to fluctuate in intensity and could become a Category 5 storm with top sustained winds of 156 mph or higher, forecasters said. The storm could hit anywhere from Florida to South Carolina as early as late Friday.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ Hi Charles: Hope all is well with you. You Mom & Charzelle are doing OK. All are thinking of you. Sent you a package and several letters. Everyone here supports you guys regardless of what you may hear. There are always a bunch of nuts protesting something. We are proud of you and love you, Grandpa

★ To all of the brave service men and women: Thank you for serving this great country of ours! My thoughts and prayers are with you all of the time. You are VERY much appreciated. Hang in there, the cause is right!! Donna Porier

★ Our thoughts & prayers are with all of you each & every day. May God bless & protect you. Thank you for all that you do! Kim: Pflugerville, TX

★ God Bless and watch over all of troops and those civilians reporting on their brave efforts. As an American whose relatives have served this country since 1776, I know the only true path to world peace is to remove government by the few to a democratic society. GO USA!

★ Hello, Just want to say Thanks for protecting us in the United States. I am proud of all of the Woman and Man over there. I want all to come home safe. I want you to know there is alot of people behind all of you for what you are doing over in Iraq. We believe in are Freedom and that is what you wonderful people do for this country. Now you are trying to show others the great life we have. The Freedom to do so much. And if it wasn't for The RED, WHITE and BLUE, many other countries would not be Free. Again, I say come home safe and we are proud of the Men and Woman in are Military. Jill

★ God be with you all as you fight for not only our Freedom's in the USA, but for the Freedom's of the Iraqi people. We give our full support and are very proud of each and everyone of you! You also have our Beautiful Army of Angels with as you go into battle. You will never be alone. We will be here when the job is done to welcome you Home. Thank you for giving of yourselves so selflessly for all of us here. God Bless All of You!

Much Love and Admiration to all, Bob and Sue Apopka, FL.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ just want to say we support and believe in your gallant efforts..... keep up the awesome job..... all of our love, Joe

★ Jim, We love you and miss you big bunches. We are so proud that you have chosen to unselfishly defend and protect our great country! Parker and Caitlin pray every night that Uncle Jim and all the other U.S. and British soldiers come home safe and sound. All our love, hugs, and kisses! John, Kim, Parker and Caitlin

★ This is too all the troops, thank you for serving this great country, I salute all of you. Stay safe and be careful. You are not alone. I served with the 7th inf div during the vietnam war. Volens Et Potens swilling and able. Roger. Jackson, Michigan

★ All of here at Pixures feel that we want to help so badly, but let's face it, the only thing we can do is send good thoughts, prayers, wishes, and offer free imagery of your home towns. We hope being able to look at your homes, even from the air, might help! Come home soon. Best regards, Melissa

★ Thank you to all of our troops who are working to defend our freedom. We would not be where we are today without people like you. I want to send a special hello to all the nurses who care for the troops-- God love you! Laura K. P. Bastrop, TX

Cheney set to take convention stage; protests continue

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Thousands of people formed a symbolic unemployment line stretching three miles from Wall Street to Madison Square Garden on Wednesday to protest President Bush's economic policies as Vice President Dick Cheney prepared to tell Republicans that Democrat John Kerry suffers from "confusion of conviction."

Police said more than 1,500 people have been arrested in convention-related protests since late last week.

Meanwhile, Bush's chief strategist, Karl Rove, said the Bush-Cheney campaign asked a federal court in Washington to force an end to political ads by outside groups known as "527" organizations. The ads in question have criticized Kerry's military service in Vietnam and also attacked Bush on a variety of issues, most notably the decision to wage war in Iraq.

Cheney's speech to the Republican National Convention on Wednesday night sets the stage for Bush's own acceptance speech the following night. Cheney will contrast Bush's "demonstrated leadership and decisiveness versus Senator Kerry's confusion of conviction — both in foreign and domestic policy — that he's demonstrated during his 20 years in the Senate," Cheney spokeswoman Anne Womack said.

On Tuesday night, before a roaring audience of delegates, Bush was lauded by his wife, Laura, and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a man of strength and compassion.

Bush "doesn't flinch, doesn't waver, does not back down," the Austrian-born former actor said. Added Mrs. Bush: "You can count on him, especially in a crisis."

Kerry, at a late-night rally in Nashville, Tenn., belittled Bush's shifting position on whether the



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger hails President Bush as a confident, decisive leader before delegates at Madison Square Garden during the Republican National Convention in New York on Tuesday.

war on terrorism is winnable. "We can, we must and we will win the war on terror," he said.

The Massachusetts senator addresses the American Legion on Wednesday, a day after Bush in a speech to the same group backed away from an earlier suggestion — made in a television interview — that the war on terror could not be won.

"It's a different type of war. We may never sit down at a peace table, but make no mistake about it, we are winning and we will win," Bush told the legionnaires.

Pennsylvania delegates put

Bush over the top on Tuesday in a roll call whose outcome was never in doubt. The timing was deliberate to give the honor to Pennsylvania, the battleground state Bush has visited most as president.

The president has visited the state, which has 21 electoral votes, 33 times since taking office — including a "family-style picnic" Tuesday night from which he introduced his wife to the convention by way of satellite.

Bush, in turn, had been introduced by Jenna and Barbara Bush, the first couple's 22-year-old twin daughters, who proved to be the surprise stars of the evening.

Bush to pay call to NYC firefighters

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was the defining moment of his presidency, and for his first stop at the convention city, President Bush chose a New York audience that will evoke memories of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bush was to meet Wednesday night with firefighters in Elmhurst, N.Y., about 10 miles from where terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center nearly three years ago.

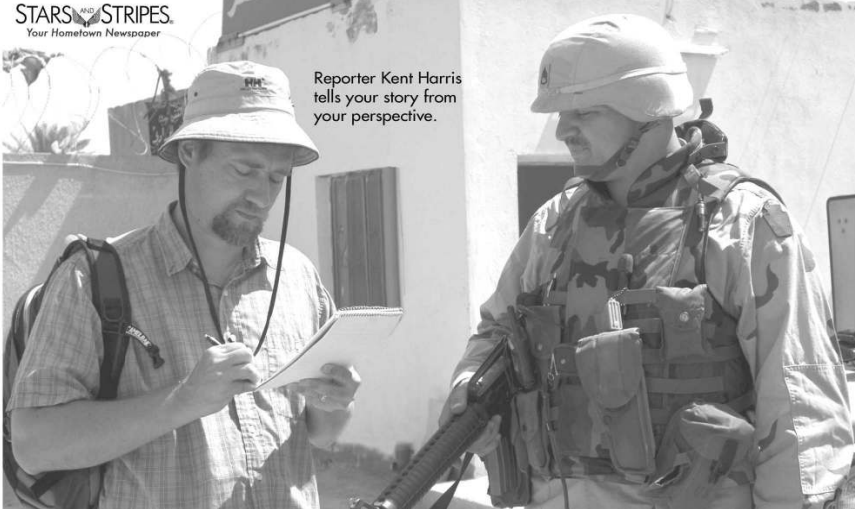
The event with firefighters is aimed at emphasizing the war on terrorism, a central theme of Bush's race for re-election. And it is designed to recall the day Bush visited Ground Zero three years ago — without the president actually visiting the attack site and inviting criticism that he was exploiting the tragedy.

"Sept. 11 is an issue of political symbolism and a question about who owns that symbolism," says Stanley Renshon, a psychologist and political scientist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. "Bush has as much claim to it as anyone else since he was president when we were hit. But having said that, the Republicans are going to have to be very careful not to politicize it."

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Reporter Kent Harris tells your story from your perspective.

Jackson garners seven CMA nominations

BY JOHN GEROME

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Alan Jackson pulled in seven nominations, the most of the year, from the Country Music Association this week, including entertainer of the year and male vocalist.

Jackson's nominations also include single of the year and song of the year for "Remember When," video of the year for "Remember When" and for his duet with Jimmy Buffett, "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," and musical event of the year for collaborating on a remake of the Hank Williams' tune "Hey, Good Lookin'."



Jackson

Toby Keith has six nominations, including album of the year for "Shook'n Y'all," single and video of the year for "I Love This Bar," musical event for "Hey, Good Lookin'," male vocalist of the year and entertainer of the year.

The other best album nominees are Brad Paisley for "Mad on the Tires," Brooks & Dunn for "Red Dirt Road," Kenny Chesney for "When the Sun Goes Down" and newcomer Gretchen Wilson for "Here for the Party."

Wilson's first single, the No. 1 hit "Redneck Woman," was nominated for three awards, single, song and music video of the year. She also was nominated for the Horizon award, which honors the top new act.

"I think it's incredible considering no one knew who I was last year at this time," Wilson said. "This has been my dream since I was a little girl."

Other artists with five nominations included Chesney and Alison Krauss.

Krauss was nominated for female vocalist of the year. Other nominees include Terri Clark, Sara Evans, Martina McBride and Reba McEntire. "Country music is making waves in 2004, and this list of outstanding nominees is one of the reasons why," CMA Executive Director Ed Benson said in a statement. "These talented performers, musicians, songwriters and producers demonstrate the artistic depth and creativity driving the burgeoning growth of our format in the past year. It is an exciting time for country music and the 2004 CMA awards will definitely reflect that in November."

CBS will broadcast the 38th annual CMA awards show, hosted by Brooks & Dunn, live from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House on Nov. 9 in the States.

Singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, who helped announce some of the nominations on CBS' "The Early Show," was selected for induction into the Country Hall of Fame.

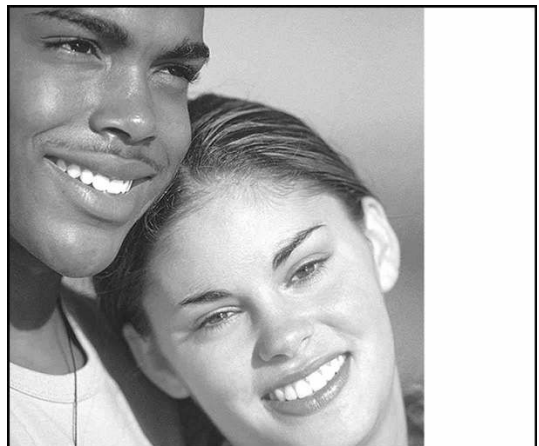
"What a dirty trick," he said, obviously surprised to hear his name read. "I guess it means I'm old," he said of the nomination that will put his name in the hall with Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings.

Kristofferson has written hits such as "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "Me and Bobby McGee" and "Sunday Morning Coming Down," and his work has been recorded by more than 450 artists.



AP

Big Kenny, left, and John Rich, right, of Big & Rich congratulate each other on their CMA nomination for Vocal Duo of the Year while Gretchen Wilson looks on as the trio announce this year's CMA nominations live on Country Music Television in Nashville, Tenn. Big & Rich received two nominations, and Wilson had five nominations, including Album of the Year and Song of the Year.



Theron injured on set

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron was injured while shooting her new Paramount film, "Aeon Flux," in Germany, but her representatives aren't saying how badly she was hurt.

Theron suffered the unspecified injury while doing her own stunts in a wire-hanging action sequence, the movie's publicist, Jeanmarie Carrasco, said Tuesday. "No cuts, no broken bones," Carrasco said. "I think it was something less tangible than that... Something vague and nagging."

No one else was hurt, Carrasco added. Filming in Berlin has been halted for several weeks to allow Theron to recover.

Theron's publicist said the 29-year-old actress wasn't hospitalized.

From The Associated Press



Theron

Messages of Support

★ To each and every troop - God Bless you all! My thoughts are with you and prayers are for you. I may not know anyone or I may know some, but I wanted to say that I think of all who I had ATT with in Ft. Eustis, Charlie Co, learning to work on Chinooks and Blackhawks. I miss the military life and many years have missed all of you who I got to know during that time. I think of you often. I have been done with my enlistment to the II National Guard for 2 years now, and have been considering reenlistment. I feel for you and your families. Thank you for dedication and courage for the future of the US and the future of my 2 boys. Someday they may have to go on and fight for freedom. I will be there to support them as I am here supporting you on this day! Love, Heather Donovan and Dillon

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EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 70s, Friday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s, Friday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms early. Highs in the lower to upper 70s, lows in the lower to mid 50s.

France: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the south. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s, Friday lows in the mid 50s to low 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s, Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Southern Germany: Sunny. Highs in the lower to upper 70s, Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s, Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s, Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s to upper 90s, Friday lows in the upper 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with rain showers early. Highs in the lower 70s to lower 80s, Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Norway: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain early. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Friday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with thunderstorms in the northeast. Highs in the lower 80s to lower 90s, Friday lows in the lower 60s to lower 70s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s to lower 90s, Friday lows in the mid 50s to lower 70s.



AFRICA

Cape Town	69	47	Mogadishu	85	73
Dakar	73	78	Nairobi	76	85
Freetown	82	74	Rabat	76	61
Antananarivo	88	68	Tripoli	89	70

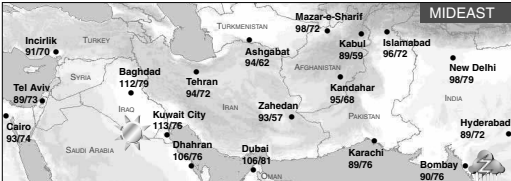
THE WORLD

Amsterdam	73	57	Manila	87	85
Bangkok	103	78	Mexico City	70	87
Beijing	89	63	Montreal	69	51
Buenos Aires	87	74	Riyadh	109	80
Bermuda	85	76	Rio de Janeiro	77	68
Calcutta	94	63	Sao Paulo	84	63
Helsinki	85	55	Sofia	82	64
Hong Kong	80	80	Sydney	66	80
Lisbon	80	65	Tokyo	84	73

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	76	65	Idaho	82	63
Alabama	80	61	Illinois	82	63
Alaska	76	65	Indiana	82	63
Arizona	88	61	Iowa	82	63
Arkansas	80	61	Kansas	82	63
California	80	61	Kentucky	82	63
Colorado	80	61	Louisiana	82	63
Connecticut	80	61	Maine	82	63
Delaware	80	61	Massachusetts	82	63
District of Columbia	80	61	Michigan	82	63
Florida	80	61	Minnesota	82	63
Georgia	80	61	Mississippi	82	63
Hawaii	80	61	Montana	82	63
Idaho	80	61	Nebraska	82	63
Illinois	80	61	Nevada	82	63
Indiana	80	61	New Hampshire	82	63
Iowa	80	61	New Jersey	82	63
Kansas	80	61	New Mexico	82	63
Kentucky	80	61	New York	82	63
Louisiana	80	61	North Carolina	82	63
Maine	80	61	Ohio	82	63
Massachusetts	80	61	Oklahoma	82	63
Michigan	80	61	Oregon	82	63
Minnesota	80	61	Pennsylvania	82	63
Mississippi	80	61	Rhode Island	82	63
Montana	80	61	South Carolina	82	63
Nebraska	80	61	Tennessee	82	63
Nevada	80	61	Texas	82	63
New Hampshire	80	61	Utah	82	63
New Jersey	80	61	Vermont	82	63
New Mexico	80	61	Washington	82	63
New York	80	61	West Virginia	82	63
North Carolina	80	61	Wisconsin	82	63
Ohio	80	61	Wyoming	82	63
Oklahoma	80	61			
Oregon	80	61			
Pennsylvania	80	61			
Rhode Island	80	61			
South Carolina	80	61			
Tennessee	80	61			
Texas	80	61			
Utah	80	61			
Vermont	80	61			
Washington	80	61			
West Virginia	80	61			
Wisconsin	80	61			
Wyoming	80	61			

MIDEAST

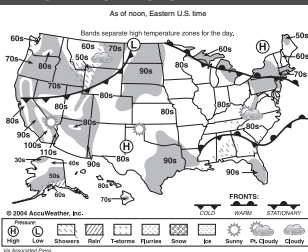


For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <http://www.amsmbach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:30 AM	Today	6:39 AM	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:43 AM	Today	6:44 AM	Tomorrow
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:28 PM	Today	7:27 PM	Tomorrow
Sunset (Frankfurt)	8:00 PM	Today	8:07 PM	Tomorrow

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Sharon Olson, News **Peter Photokios**, Photo/Graphics
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Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211

INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim,
Germany

FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

E-MAIL: News: news@mail.estripes.osd.mil
Letters: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350.

20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-763-0900 or 312-763-0000. Fax (312) 763-0000.

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazarella, 529 14th

350, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 31
ext. 6-1340/20-361-0046

E-mail: mazzarellad@strides.osd.mil

OMBUDSMAN: Joe Ungaro. Send comments to: ombudsman@timesonline.com

and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, W
20045-1301 Phone: civilian, (+1) (401) :

(+1) (401) 364-8696;

or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil.

How to call us

Editor: DSN 349-8237: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237

Letters: DSN 349-8400; div. (+49) (0) 6155/60140
Sports: DSN 349-8225; cit. (+49) (0) 6155/60122

Circulation: DSN 349-8437; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/60

Advertising: DSN 349-8335/443;
civ. (449) (0) 6155/601235/443

News Bureau

News Bureaus
GERMANY (country code: +49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert, 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Box

09139-7535; tel. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/
469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/200-8007

N 469-7957 or civ.
951/300 8007.

e-mail: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Baumholder: Terry Boyd, 222nd BSB, APO AE 0
105 0000, or call (8) 6782 000376, e-mail

485-6085, or civ. (U) 6783-900776; e-mail: boydt@mail.esrires.osd.mil

Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE
340 8406 or civ. (0) 6155 601406.

e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward

9211; tel. DSN
l.sanders@nsw.com

ca lăno, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 3

OPINION

McCain co-opts on both sides of the aisle

This is, of course, George W. Bush's week, the time that he is formally confirmed in his candidacy for a second term as president.

But Bush is staying away from the Republican National Convention until Thursday, and in his absence, the man of the hour is Sen. John McCain of Arizona. In addition to his prime-time speech to the opening session on Monday, McCain was host to a Sunday dinner that attracted virtually every big-foot TV and print journalist in America. This week, he is campaigning all day Tuesday with Bush.

The McCain phenomenon is remarkable. Rarely in modern political history has a man who failed to win the nomination of his party in one election loomed so large on the national stage as the next election.

Richard Nixon was a key player in national Republican campaigns for 20 years, from 1952 through 1972. Adlai Stevenson dominated the Democratic scene in 1952 and again in 1956, and was a serious contender for a third time at the Los Angeles convention that nominated John Kennedy in 1960.

But Nixon and Stevenson (like Hubert Humphrey and George H.W. Bush) won places on the national ticket as a prelude to their continuing influence on their parties.

By contrast, McCain captured only a handful of primaries in 2000 and fell far short of dethroning the current president's march to a victory. The closest parallel to McCain's

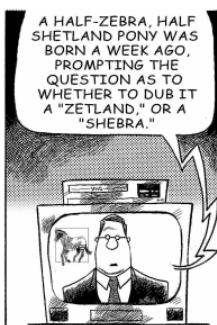
achievement can be found in Ronald Reagan, who threw a real scare into President Gerald Ford in 1976 and came back to win the nomination and the presidency in 1980. But McCain's political achievement is more stunning than Reagan's in two respects. Reagan was able to return in 1980 because Ford had lost in 1976, leaving the leadership of the Republican Party wide open. And McCain, despite his defeat in 2000, has emerged as the most-courted, most-quoted politician—not just by Republicans, but by Democrats as well.

If there has ever been a time when the same officeholder has been pictured and cited in ads by both major party candidates, I cannot remember it. But John Kerry was using McCain to bolster his case against Bush (until McCain asked him to scrap those ads) at the same time Bush was recruiting McCain to campaign with him.

Both apparently think McCain has some magic dust that might rub off on them.

Kerry reportedly sounded out McCain on the possibility of forming a "national unity" ticket with McCain in the No. 2 spot. Polls showed that if Vice President Cheney stepped down, McCain would be the most popular choice to replace him as Bush's running mate. McCain, a realist, said consistently all through this crazy year that neither of those things was going to happen—and he was right.

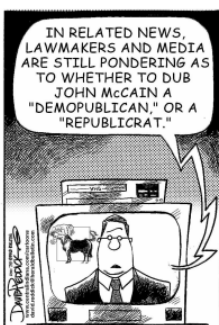
How to explain this phenomenon? The answer has to lie in McCain's success in satisfying the widespread public hunger for authenticity and candor in political leaders. The name he gave his campaign bus in 2000, "The Straight Talk Express," perfectly captured what voters now see in him—the rare Washington official who says what he thinks and lets the chips fall where they may.



The current political situation puts a strain on McCain's ability to do that. But he is struggling manfully to keep his various roles straight without contradicting himself.

On the subject of Kerry, he says that the senator's Vietnam combat service was nothing but honorable and should not be criticized. He defends Kerry as a serious senator, but says frankly that he disagrees with his vote against funding the Iraq war—and on other security issues over the years.

When it comes to Bush, the parsing becomes even more refined. He has argued publicly that Bush should repudiate the ads



criticism of Kerry's wartime service, but he says that is not important enough to cause him to consider threatening to withdraw his endorsement of Bush.

While threading his way through this labyrinth of issues and pressures, McCain also manages to preserve for himself the role of umpire on several reform issues. It is a balancing act few could perform. But somehow, John McCain keeps all the balls in the air at once. I've never seen anything like it.

David Broder is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Allow M-1 Abrams tanks to prevail in future Najafs

M-1 Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles were decisive in defeating Muqtada al-Sadr's "Mehdi Army" in the fighting in Najaf just concluded, as they had been in earlier fighting in Iraq.

Until recently, and especially after the Russians' troubles in the Chechen and Dagestan regions of Russia's capital, Grozny, the conventional wisdom was that armor was not as effective in an urban environment as it is in the countryside. Narrow streets restrict visibility and mobility. Tall buildings permit defenders to attack tanks and armored personnel carriers at their most vulnerable point. (The armor is thinnest on the top of the vehicle.)

But the Israelis and now the Americans have stood the old conventional wisdom on its head. They have shown that nothing is more effective in urban combat than armored vehicles, properly employed as part of a tank-infantry team.

The importance of armor in urban combat can be overstated. It's important to bear in mind that in Najaf we were fighting a remarkably incompetent foe, and that in Najaf there were no buildings so tall that the guns on an Abrams or a Bradley couldn't be elevated to engage people on rooftops.

Still, it is clear that other nations will be examining carefully the lessons learned in Najaf, and earlier in Baghdad, in rewriting their doctrine for combat in built-up areas. It appears that the U.S. Army may not be among those paying much attention to the lessons of Najaf.

The Army seems hellbent on replacing

the armored forces that brought us victory with a lightly armored bus.

An armored bus. Think about the concept for a moment. They say that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. The Army must have consulted that same committee in coming up with the Stryker, which lacks the speed and agility of an armored car, but also lacks the firepower and armor protection of a Bradley. It is, however, very expensive.

The Stryker is the brainchild of Gen. Eric Shinseki, who was chief of staff of the Army in the last years of the Clinton administration. Shinseki was embarrassed when wheeled Russian vehicles were able to get to Kosovo ahead of U.S. tanks and Bradleys.

The Stryker is a super-sized version of the armored car the Marines have been using for decades. The LAV-25 is fast and maneuverable, and — with a turret-mounted 25 mm chain gun and a coaxial 7.62 mm ma-

chine gun — packs a wallop.

The Stryker is larger and heavier (19 tons vs. 11 tons), because the Army wanted it to carry a full 9-man squad (vs. 6 for the LAV-25), and to have enough armor to protect against heavy machine guns. (The LAV-25 protects only against small arms.)

The gain in size and weight is a problem, because the Stryker is supposed to fit on a C-130 tactical transport. To try to satisfy this problem, the turret and chain gun were dispensed with. The basic Stryker is armed with either a .50-caliber machine gun or a 40 mm grenade launcher, which the gunner has to get out of the vehicle to reload.

There are a half dozen proposed variants of the Stryker vehicle, the nuttiest of which is the armored gun system, a 105 mm cannon mounted on a Stryker chassis.

It is a profoundly bad idea to put a big gun on a wheeled vehicle, because wheeled vehi-

cles lack the stability to absorb the recoil when the gun is fired. The cannon can't protect the armor of a modern tank, because the gun had to be dumbed down to lessen the recoil. Even so, in tests, the ACS has shown a disturbing tendency to flip over when the gun is fired, if the gun is not perfectly aligned along the center line of the vehicle.

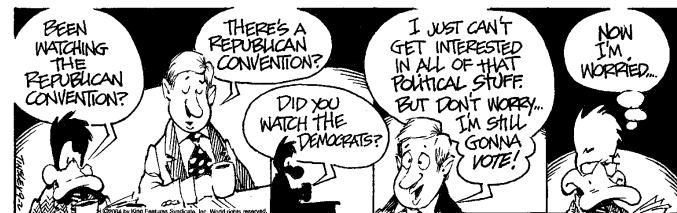
So the ACS doesn't work, wouldn't be of that much use even if it did, and can't fit on a C-130. But the Army wants it to replace tanks, which plainly do work.

Someone who learns only from his own experience is said to be a nitwit. So what do you say about those who refuse to learn from their own experience?

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Payouts lacking

MD ANNAPOLIS — A dozen victims of Tropical Storm Isabel said they still haven't received adequate insurance settlements to help them rebuild. They called for state Insurance Commissioner Alfred Redmer and the governor to press federal officials to speed their flood insurance claims. Some are still living in trailers supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Jump for charity

WI SHIOCTON — Matt McClone had an up-and-down day one weekend, but for a good reason.

McClone jumped out of an airplane 100 times in 12 hours to help raise an estimated \$14,000 for breast cancer survivors.

That works out to \$140 per jump for the Madison-based Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation — and one jump every seven minutes.

If those numbers make your head spin, picture the 26-year-old skydiver leaping from an altitude of 2,500, touching down, then spending less than a minute on the ground before getting back into another plane.

McClone decided to raise funds for the foundation after his girlfriend's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

For McClone, 99 of the jumps were uneventful. The troublesome one was No. 33. His main chute didn't open properly, though the reserve chute did.

Probation officers' case

FL DELTONA — Two probation officers who were fired after an ex-convict under their supervision was charged in six murders have appealed their punishment, saying it was too severe.

Richard Burrow and Paul Haynes were fired Aug. 9 for mishandling the case of Troy Victorino. The Department of Corrections said Victorino's brushes with the law while on probation should have put him behind bars before the killings at a home in Deltona, about 30 miles southwest of Daytona Beach.

Victorino, 27, is accused of organizing the killings to get back his belongings after one of the tenants removed his video game system and clothes from another home where he had been squatting.

Victorino and three 18-year-olds were indicted last week in the killing spree. The state is seeking the death penalty against Victorino, Michael Sales, Robert Cannon and Jerome Hunter.

Battling cupcake ban

MA DUXBURY — Betsy Hunter is cooking up a campaign to overturn a cupcake ban at her daughter's elementary school.

Hunter hopes to persuade school officials to rescind a no-cupcake birthday policy at Chandler Elementary School. She's gathered about 200 signatures. Chandler Principal Deborah Zetterberg said the change was part of an effort to promote healthier eating.



Costly garbage bins

HI HONOLULU — A miscalculation in how soon it would need thousands of new household garbage bins led to a storage problem that cost the city \$325,000.

The city took delivery of 28,000 bins between April 2003 and last November, but only needed to distribute 15,000 for recycling and regular trash.

Frank Doyle, the city's director of Environmental Services, said lack of available city space to store the remaining 13,000 bins forced the city to pay Matson Navigation Co. to let them stay in shipping containers at its Sand Island facility.

Some of the bins remained in containers for a year and a half, but city officials say all of the bins have now been moved to city yards.

In the future, the city will order fewer bins at a time, and new ones will go directly to homes upon arrival, Doyle said.

Site is sore sight

FL FORT WALTON BEACH — Fort Walton Beach High School football fans who click on the booster club's Web site are finding out that "score" has a different meaning these days.

Instead of stats and play-by-plays of the Vikings, Internet surfers are seeing pictures of



Lessson in fire

Onlookers watch a trailer burn during a demonstration in Las Cruces, N.M. The mock dorm room fire was set to show how even a small fire can engulf a dorm room.

naked women — posted after the Touchdown Club unknowingly let the domain name lapse.

The site was purchased by Beta Corp., based in Ukraine. Now, the site gives an eyeful and links to other sex-themed sites.

Touchdown Club president Johnnie Ford said the club hopes to buy the name back. He said he was unaware anything needed to be done to maintain control of the site.

Magnets attract thieves

IA COUNCIL BLUFFS — Patriotic magnets are attracting somebody's attention — much to the chagrin of Michelle Morrow and Kim Grosvenor, to name but two.

The women are among several people in the area who have had yellow and red, white and blue ribbon-shaped magnets stolen off their vehicles, according to the Council Bluffs police. Just a handful, though, have reported the thefts.

Morrow said her car magnet was stolen while she was at a hot air balloon fair. It read "Half of my heart is in Afghanistan," where her husband, Lance, has been stationed since early this year.

Morrow said she'll replace the magnet but won't leave it where thieves can get it.

"If they are making a political statement, then they are violating my rights to make a statement that I support our troops. But it obviously showed that I have a loved one serving over there."

Toddler dies in car

TX BROWNSVILLE — Authorities said miscommunication between two sisters may have led to the death of an 18-month-old girl who was left in a hot car for about two hours.

Jasmine Morin died of heat exhaustion after her aunt, 17-year-old Ana Lopez, left the child in the car with the windows closed, police said.

Police said Jasmine was in the car when Lopez dropped off the child's mother, Blanca Lopez, 24, at work.

"The mother indicates she told the aunt the child was in the back seat, but she [the aunt] didn't hear that," Lt. James Paschall told The Brownsville Herald.

Jasmine was found in the back seat of the car by relatives. Brownsville, in southern Texas near the Mexico border, reached a high of 93 that day.

Ana Lopez has been charged with felony abandonment of a child and is being held on a \$20,000 bond.

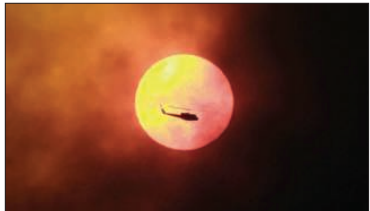
Teacher backgrounds

MA MALDEN — State Education Commissioner David Driscoll called for more extensive background checks for teachers and other school employees to help prevent sexual abuse. Driscoll also wants to hire investigators to examine complaints.

Currently, school system criminal background checks on prospective employees only cover offenses committed in Massachusetts.



Pigs' feat of daring The second of three diving pigs heads for the water during a practice run for Randall's High Diving Racers in Schaghticoke, N.Y. The diving and racing pigs, owned by Virgil "Boss Hog" Randall of Arkansas, were to make their first appearance at the Schaghticoke Fair.



Burning through the haze A helicopter flies past the setting sun while battling a fire on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation near Redness, Colo.



Deadly wreck A firefighter sprays the wreckage of a locomotive and 18-wheeler that collided in Climax, Ga., and caught fire. Three Bainbridge College students and a faculty member were killed during a truck-driving class when the truck they were driving was hit by the train.



Skeleton in the castle

A fake skeleton sits in a dungeon off the medieval tower staircase at Hammond Castle Museum in Gloucester, Mass. The museum is a castle mansion built by inventor John Hammond Jr., who was inspired by castles during his childhood in England.



Three points for female kicker

Andrew High School kicker

Katie Bemis and holder Chris Marshall practice field goals at the school's stadium in El Paso, Texas. Bemis became the first female to score in an El Paso varsity football game when she kicked three extra points in the Eagles' 49-7 victory over Hanks High School.



Old-time sailing

Crewmembers enjoy the view from the deck of a replica 1862-class sailing canal schooner Lois McClure during the ships first time under sail on Lake Champlain off the Burlington, Vt., shoreline.



Fountain dance

Maevie McKinley, 5, practices a ballet move she learned in her dance class while cooling off in the fountain at the Eugene Water and Electric Board offices along the Willamette River in Eugene, Ore.

Laundry room fires

WA EVERETT — Someone set fires in 22 laundry rooms in the same apartment complex by torching clothes, trash and other items, causing about \$22,000 in damage, police said.

No one was injured in the fires, said police Sgt. Boyd Bryant. Park Ridge apartments in south Everett has 42 buildings and about 600 residents.

Fire Marshal Warren Burns said crews responded to an initial call and quickly put out the flames, but as they prepared to leave, four more fires were reported.

Burns said the fires were contained to the laundry rooms, each of which is below one living unit and beside two others.

"We are very fortunate the fires stayed in the laundry rooms and stayed small," he said.

Manager Jenna Nolan said she had received no threats and saw no suspicious activity before the fires. Authorities were investigating.

93rd birthday adventure

IA CALDWELL — A woman celebrating her 93rd birthday, 35 grandchildren, 75 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren jumped from an airplane to celebrate her 93rd birthday.

"Because it's a new adventure," explained Lurea Koltz, of Burley.

After seeing a videotape of her great-granddaughter doing the same thing, Koltz set her mind to skydive in Caldwell. Her age wasn't a concern, she said.

Thirteen cars full of family and friends watched the jump.

Snake-whipped

NJ CEDARVILLE — In this case, police say a dead snake was more dangerous than a live one.

Michael File received several small lacerations on his back as a result of being whipped with a dead six-foot-long black snake, state police said. File, 26, wasn't wearing a shirt during the assault by Kenneth Davis, 42, authorities said.

Police said Davis let the snake, which was alive when the incident began, crawl into File's residence. File's father beat the snake to death with a piece of wood.

Police said Davis then became angry and pushed the elder File. Michael File told Davis to leave the property, whereupon Davis picked up the snake, twirled it over his head and assaulted Michael File with it, police said.

File then grabbed a baseball bat and took aim at Davis' head, police said. Davis was treated for head lacerations.

Davis was charged with simple assault. Police Sgt. Sean Day said charges against File are likely.

Credit rating scam

CA ALBANY — The accused ringleader of a scam that stole the identities of dead people to bolster the credit ratings of car buyers has pleaded guilty to wire fraud and identity theft.

Investigators said Kwezeta Butler would troll newspaper obituaries and contact an Internet background search company to obtain the Social Security numbers, birth dates and credit histories of the deceased.

Butler then sold fake IDs with

the names of the deceased for \$500 to \$600 to people with bad credit who used the identities to buy cars, investigators said. In a few cases, the identities of people still alive were stolen.

About 80 people were arrested in January for the scheme, which took place from 2001 to 2002. They were indicted on forgery and identity fraud charges in May, and most of the cases still are pending.

Butler entered her guilty plea in U.S. District Court.

U.S. Attorney Maxwell Wood said more indictments may result from the investigation, but did not elaborate. Butler could face a maximum sentence of 15 years on the identity theft charge and 20 years on the charge of wire fraud. Wood did not immediately return a call about what sentence prosecutors would recommend.

Litter spies recruited

NJ FAIR LAWN — This Bergen County community of 30,000 is trying a novel approach to curb an annoying and longstanding problem.

It's recruiting "litter spotters." They'll volunteer to spot people tossing litter from vehicles and report the license number to the municipal office. The vehicle owner is then mailed a notice pointing out the offense and explaining a further offense could result in a fine.

Woman dies in biplane

WI PORT EDWARDS — A biplane flying rides for a fund-raiser in central Wisconsin crashed upside down in a river, killing a Michigan woman, authorities said.

The biplane's landing gear struck power lines before it crashed into about 3 feet of water in the Wisconsin river, said Wood County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Ward.

A 38-year-old passenger visiting the Wisconsin Rapids area with her husband, children and mother was killed.

Pilot Mark Strub, 42, was unable to free the woman and ran a half-mile to a local paper mill to call for help, Sheriff Kurt Heuer said. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the accident.

Hawaiian Yankees Day

HI HONOLULU — New York City native who has lived in the islands for 25 years, took advantage of his being acting governor to give his favorite baseball team some recognition.

Bennett is at the helm while Gov. Linda Lingle and Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona attend the Republican National Convention in — where else? — New York City.

Bennett said he signed a proclamation declaring Sept. 1 in honor of the Bronx Bombers.

Bennett said he learned that Hawaii, which has no professional baseball team, does have an important historical connection to the game. Alexander Cartwright, who is credited with defining baseball's rules, moved to Hawaii in the mid-1800s, and became Honolulu's first fire chief.

A neighborhood baseball field in Makiki is named for Cartwright, who died here in 1892.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

After weeks of retrograde, Mercury goes direct, making our communication much more straightforward and logical. This could come as a relief, as simple transactions are once again possible. But there's another side as well. When it's difficult to communicate, we try harder and are made more aware of our desire to be heard.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 2). You've got something special to offer the world this year, and the acceptance you feel is overwhelming. Singles start dating someone new this month, possibly a Libra or Gemini. Major commitments and wild adventures happen in October. Job success comes at the price of overtime hours in November.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Strange happenings at the start of the day put you on guard. Knowing about new possibilities gives you more choice. Don't fear anything you can't control. (The flip side of the concept is to take control wherever you possibly can.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You trump colleagues in a certain area but could feel that overall you're a little behind the ball. This is the prompt warnings like you know to respond to immediately. A coach or mentor will help you keep your competitive edge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Resolve to get down to the nitty-gritty and do things the right way — in other words, do them once and for all — even if it means more work. If you rely on your charismatic presence while others toil away, you really miss out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Love comes in many different forms. New relationships spark up, and old ones resonate at a higher level of respect. If you've been starting on a "career" today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's always a nice surprise when you uncover yet another of your talents. You'll come across something new, perhaps a game or sport, and right

away, you've got a feel for how to do it well. This activity is worth pursuing further.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your participation in a group shows everyone around that you're a team player, and generous, too. Career advancement comes when your work is seen by your immediate superior. Put yourself in the limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

It's not a day for the faint at heart — challenges pop up right and left. It's like you're navigating some kind of video game. Keep pushing to be the best. Old problems need new solutions. Clients welcome your insight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

When you collaborate with others who are headed in the same direction, you'll reach a goal together. Something broken gives you a fantastic idea or produces a fortuitous meeting that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your poetic spirit is highlighted. This doesn't mean you'll be walking around rhyming to yourself (although you're certainly welcome to). You will be seeing the world vividly and associating new meanings with those pictures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Read, engage in witty banter, or do a crossword puzzle — anything to stretch mental muscles. Exercising your mind allows you to achieve confidence. Young people need support, in the form of ideas, money or a listening ear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You get to the meat of the matter quickly today, which is why you'll have some free time to blow later in the evening. (Free time? What a concept!) The age issue arises. Whatever yours is, there's much to be said for acting it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

This is an excellent day to get on the phone and start moving some product — especially if your "product" is you. There are more people than you think out there who need exactly what you're offering.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



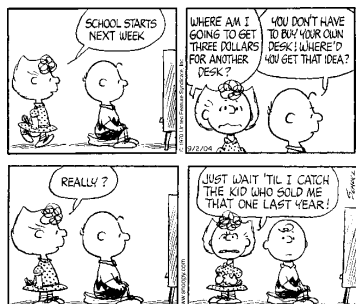
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



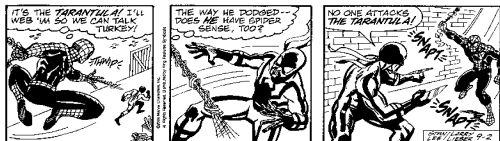
B.C.



Baby Blues



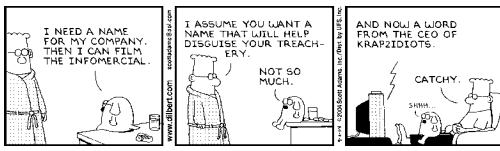
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



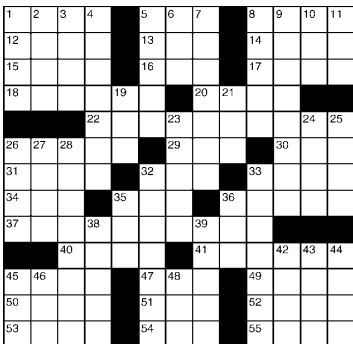
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



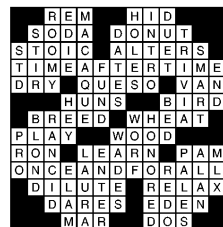
Across

- 1 Pond growth
5 Prouette
8 snail
12 Dart off
13 Chapeau
14 Carson's successor
15 Stolen stuff
16 Guitar's cousin
17 Medley
18 Preserve from decay
20 Judicial garb
22 Stay-at-home's restlessness
26 Bushel divisions
29 "You dirty —!"
30 Big fuss
31 Blunders
32 Actor Holbrook
33 Koumikov or Karetna
34 Whopper
35 Common query, for short
36 Oil of roses
37 Intense excitement
40 On
41 Aide
45 Bread
47 George's brother
49 Icicle's place
50 Basilica area
51 Realtor's offering
52 Needing extra innings

Down

- 13 Orange coat
54 "Indubitably"
55 Cube-maker
21 Frequently
23 Baghdad resident
24 Writer Ferber
25 Bellow
26 Ill-gotten gain
27 One of HOMES
28 Deep fissure
32 As luck would have it
33 Jack
35 To and —
36 Perfect serve
38 Lucy's pal
39 "—"
42 Duo
43 Squared
44 Start over
45 Upper limit
46 Gorilla
48 Wade
19 Part of UNLV opponent

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-2

CRYPTOQUIP

ZI IPO IOSSFR RKVVMU
RIAHO, ASO LAKMQ
RKVVARO IPOU'HO

DASDOHSQ LFIP SOI RZMOR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU SPOT A CRIME OCCURRING IN PAVING GOO, YOU MIGHT SERVE AS THE TAR WITNESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals N

FACES 'N' PLACES

'Macbeth' takes modern turn

Director **Geoffrey Wright** plans to give Shakespeare's "Macbeth" a contemporary backdrop in a film set amid a violent gangland war in the southern Australian city of Melbourne.

Wright directed the low-budget 1992 movie "Romper Stomper" that helped launch **Russell Crowe's** career. His new film will star Australian actor **Sam Worthington** as the nobleman who murders Scotland's king.

Producer **Martin Fabiani** told The Sydney Morning Herald in Tuesday's editions the movie wouldn't be based strictly on events in Melbourne — where some 30 people have died in recent years in a violent battle between rival underworld gangs — but would draw parallels.

He hopes the film will be shot late this year or in early 2005.

Christopher Dean's outfits up for grabs

Costumes worn by Olympic ice dancing champion **Christopher Dean** during his flamboyant routines with partner **Jayne Torvill** are to be auctioned for charity.

SportsAid, which raises funds for aspiring athletes, said Tuesday the auction will feature 11 of Dean's outfits, donated by Torvill, who kept them when they moved to the United States six years ago.

They include Dean's outfit from the pair's performance of "Barcarolle," which won the 1983 World Championships, and another from the 1990 Winter Olympics "Face the Music" routine, which garnered the couple a disappointing bronze medal and led to their decision to retire from competition.

No date has been set for the auction.

There also are two replica costumes worn by Dean for their many performances of "Bolero," the tango dance performance that won the couple an Olympic gold medal at the 1984 Sarajevo games, when they scored perfect marks for artistic merit. The original outfit, in deep lilac, is in a Nottingham museum.



Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean

Smits to star in his own series

Jimmy Smits will return to ABC to star in his own series and produce other shows after his term as a congressman on NBC's "The West Wing" is over, ABC said.

Smits previously starred in the ABC police drama "NYPD Blue" from 1994 to 1998.

"Jimmy's a one-of-a-kind star and we feel fortunate that he's decided to once again be part of the family," **Stephen McPherson**, president of ABC PrimeTime Entertainment, said Monday.

Through his El Sendero Productions, Smits will serve as executive producer of the shows that could air on ABC or other outlets owned by The Walt Disney Co.

NBC announced last week that Smits will play a three-term congressman from Houston with "presidential aspirations" on "The West Wing," which returns for its sixth season on Oct. 20.

Martin Sheen plays fictional Democratic President **Joshua Bartlet**, now serving his second term on the political drama.

Russian filmmaker wins at festival

Russian filmmaker **Lidya Bobrova** won two awards at the Copenhagen International Film Festival — best movie and best script — for "Granny," a film about senior citizens being marginalized in post-Soviet Russia.

Nimrod Antal of Hungary won the award for best director for "Kontroll." **Anna Maria Muehe** of Germany won the best actress award for "Love in Thoughts" and **Luis Tosar** of Spain received a Golden Swan for best actor for "Take My Eyes," the Danish Film Institute, one of the festival's co-organizers, said Monday.

The Aug. 19-29 event, which ended Saturday, featured 112 films from around the world.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

New guy funks up Metallica



Photo courtesy of ABC

Bassist **Robert Trujillo**, left, made a smooth transition from a difficult situation when he joined renowned heavy metal band **Metallica**, alongside holdovers, from second left, **James Hetfield**, **Lars Ulrich** and **Kirk Hammett**.

Former Suicidal Tendencies bassist Trujillo brings own style to notoriously exacting band

BY GEMMA TARLACH
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

What's it like to be the new guy in the biggest metal band in the known universe? Just ask **Robert Trujillo**, the bassist for **Metallica**.

Trujillo, formerly a member of the band **Suicidal Tendencies**, is **Metallica's** third bassist and perhaps its most unexpected.

Original four-stringer **Cliff Burton** played a tremendous role in establishing the band's sound in the early '80s. Instead of staying in the background, Burton made the bass as much a lead instrument as the guitar.

After **Burton's** death in a 1986 tour bus crash, **Flotsam & Jetsam** bassist **James Newsted** was tapped to replace him but rarely was allowed to step out of the long shadow cast by his predecessor.

Newsted left the band in 2001 citing stress and creative constraints, and for more than two years, **Metallica** was bass-less.

It's a period chronicled in "Some Kind of Monster," the acclaimed **Metallica** documentary now in theaters. In the film, frontman **James Hetfield** and his remaining bandmates, drummer **Lars Ulrich** and guitarist **Kirk Hammett**, try to learn how to get along with the help of performance coach **Phil Towle**.

In the middle of **Metallica's** personal transition from "The Call of Ktulu" to "Kumbaya," Trujillo was invited to join the band. The Southern California surfer already had made a name for himself with an aggressive, heavily funk-ed-up style, full of popping and slapping.

Trujillo also had a reputation for a more improvisational approach to bass.

Would the notoriously controlling **Hetfield** put up with Trujillo's looser style? Would the notoriously outspoken and demanding **Metallicas** accept the new dude? Trujillo answered all our questions — and revealed **Metallica's** secret funky side — when he chatted with us by phone from his home in Venice, Calif., during a recent break from the road.

Q. What do you bring to **Metallica**?

A. As a performer, physically, technically, I play the way I feel.

Of course, when I'm out there (on stage), I go hard. I give it everything I can. I feed off the music and the fans feed off that. No disrespect, but I'm playing because I'm feeling it, not because I think I have to please that fan over there, or that fan there.

Q. You've known **Metallica** for a long time from the out-

side. What was the biggest eye-opener for you when you joined the band?

A. Obviously the whole performance coach thing. That was my first encounter with guys in years, with the exception of going surfing with Kirk a couple times. They invited me into the studio and I got to hear the "St. Anger" tracks in their prenatal stage. I would have thought the old, guarded **Metallica** wouldn't have allowed that.

They welcomed me into their world, and I wasn't even part of it at the time. There's this whole mystique about what they're like, you know, the evil **Metallica**. I didn't see that. Actually, at first, not seeing that evil **Metallica** kind of made me uncomfortable.

Q. How does your style square with **Metallica's** exacting expectations?

A. It's a combination. I think he's mellowed out. If he feels something's not right, maybe in the past he'd attack it more aggressively. Now, when we're playing, I can sense if something's not working. He'll look at me, look at the fretboard, look at me, then eventually he'll say something like "Uh, I think it goes this way." But when I got the job, I said to myself, leave no room for error.

Q. How is a **Metallica** live performance different than that of your other bands?

A. **Metallica** for me is actually the most physically demanding. The shows are a lot longer than I'm used to, the music is pretty demanding, it's fast, and with a fair amount of movement (around the fretboard). Also the amount of songs, the catalog they have to work with, we never play the same set night after night.

Combine that with a stage the size of an aircraft carrier, and it's like a workout on a treadmill. It's kind of freaky for the new guy.

When they asked me to join, **Lars** said, "We're like a freight train. When we take off, we go hard and fast and don't stop."

Q. Tell the truth: Before you joined, how funky was **Metallica**?

A. I grew up listening to metal but also to **James Brown**, the **Parliament**. I know when a guy is funky. And **James Hetfield** is funky. I mean that. In the context of, like, **Lynyrd Skynyrd**. There's something really soulful in him. He also plays the drums, so his approach to rhythm guitar is very funky.

I always thought there was a lot of groove in **Metallica**. That's **Metallica's** secret ingredient that they have over other bands. The groove factor is that **James** has is the heartbeat of the band.

"I grew up listening to metal but also to James Brown, the Parliament. I know when a guy is funky. And James Hetfield is funky. I mean that."

Robert Trujillo
Metallica bassist

U.S. forward Steve Konowalchuk, top, knocks over Canadian goaltender Martin Brodeur during Tuesday's World Cup game in Montreal. The Americans crashed the net regularly during their 2-1 loss, but Brodeur made 23 saves. Team USA plays Russia on Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

AP



Canada stands up U.S.

Hosts edge Americans in physical World Cup opener

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — The rivalry between the United States and Canada was reignited Tuesday night in the World Cup of Hockey.

Martin St. Louis had a goal and an assist to lead Canada to a 2-1 victory over the United States in the opening game of the tournament for both teams.

"I think the crowd pumped everybody up," Canada coach Pat Quinn said of the roaring, chanting, capacity crowd of 21,273, which included Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

The game was so contentious that Canada's 38-year-old captain Mario Lemieux went after Steve Konowalchuk after the American toppled goalie Martin Brodeur.

U.S. goaltender Robert Esche kept his team close by making 18 saves, many of them spectacular, during a first period in which the United States was outshot 19-6.

St. Louis, the NHL scoring champion and MVP last season, scored the only goal of the opening period during a power play and helped set up Joe Sakic's goal early in the second.

But the momentum turned toward the Americans when Bill Guerin scored midway through the second period.

"It was like it was two games — we controlled the play in the first half and they took over in the second," Sakic said. "When we went up 2-0, we changed our game a bit. We tried to make too cute plays. Then they got a goal and got a lot of life from that. We came back in the third, but we have to do a better job of that — to keep pressing when we have the momentum."

It took little time for the teams to show signs of the rivalry that has peaked since Canada beat the United States in the gold-medal game of the 2002 Olympics. The Americans won the inaugural World Cup in 1996 by beating Canada in Montreal in the third game of a three-game final series.

"It's an emotional tournament," Guerin said. "It's Canada-U.S., it's for lots of pride. It always tends to be physical."

Both teams lost players to injuries. Defenseman Ed Jovanovski was knocked out of Canada's lineup, and the United States was without forward Mike Modano for most of the game. As is typical with NHL playoff games, neither team would give specifics. Both were said to have lower body injuries and were to be re-evaluated on Wednesday.

Canada will play its second game of the round-robin portion of the eight-team tournament Wednesday against Slovakia in Montreal.

The United States will play Russia on Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

"You have to give Canada credit, they came out hungrier than we were and were a lot more intense," U.S. coach Ron Wilson said. "They got physically involved. They pushed us and we didn't push back. Fortunately,

Robert Esche was on top of things. In the second period, we started to turn things around."

Canada was leading 2-1 at 16:03 of the second period when Konowalchuk came in hard and bumped Brodeur in the crease.

Lemieux, not known for fighting, charged in and tussled with Konowalchuk until linemate Jaromir Jagr took over. Defenseman Scott Niedermayer ended up fighting American center Jeff Halpern.

"They tried to run Brodeur four or five times," Quinn said. "Mario had to try to do something to restore common sense out there."

Brodeur, winner of the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goalie the past two seasons, just shrugged.

"Every time I play in a big game it's like that," he said. "I control rebounds, so guys go in there. They went in hard a few times, but that's part of the game."

Early in the second period Canada led 2-0 and was outshooting the Americans 24-6. The United States improved its attack and Canada finished with a 32-24 advantage in shots on goal.

For most of the first period, it looked like Esche would emulate the 1996 performance of Mike Richter, who earned MVP honors in the United States' World Cup victory. But St. Louis gave Canada a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal at 16:01.

Quick passes down low by Joe Thornton and Niedermayer fed St. Louis in the spot for a high shot just inside the post.

Canada was on another power play when Sakic's point shot hit Chris Drury's leg and bounced past the screened Esche 3:05 into the second.

Guerin got the United States within 2-1 at 10:40 of the second period when he had time to gain control of a pass from Scott Gomez and whip a quick high shot past Brodeur's glove side.

In Tuesday's other game, Mats Sundin had a goal and two assists to lead Sweden past Germany 5-2 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Canada 2, United States 1

United States 0 1 0-1
Canada 1 1 0-2
First Period—1. Canada, St. Louis (16:03) (pp).
Second Period—1. Canada, Sakic (1:00) (pp).
Third Period—1. Canada, Sakic (1:00) (pp). 3. United States, Guerin (16:03) (pp).
Shots on goal—United States 6-12-6-24.
Canada 19-6-2-31.
Power-play Opportunities—United States 0 of 4; Canada 7 of 5.
Goalies—United States, Esche, Canada, Brodeur. A-21,273.



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NHL labor talks resume

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — The NHL owners and players association returned to the bargaining table Tuesday, one week after trading barbs about who was to blame for the lack of progress in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The sides met for 6½ hours before a World Cup game and are scheduled to conclude their

two-day session Wednesday.

The league and union declined comment until the conclusion of the meeting, just as they did after Day 1 of a two-day session last week in Ottawa.

It was after that round of talks that the NHL claimed that the players' association was stalling and wanted to force the owners to impose a lockout when the current collective bargaining agreement expires on Sept. 15.

Schilling, Red Sox keep pressure on Yanks

Boston cuts AL East gap to 3½ by blasting Anaheim

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox looked at the out-of-town scoreboard and could hardly believe what they saw.

The New York Yankees were trailing big at home against the Cleveland Indians in what would be the worst loss in the 101-year history of the storied franchise.

Red Sox outfielder Dave Roberts said he simply smiled when he saw the 22-0 final Tuesday night, knowing that his team cut its deficit in the AL East to 3½ games after a 10-7 victory over Anaheim.

Manny Ramirez homered twice, Curt Schilling moved into the tie for the major league lead with 17 wins and Boston won its season-high seventh straight.

"There's still a long way to go," Roberts said. "Our destiny is in our hands, and that's what's important."

Still, the Red Sox refuse to start thinking about overtaking the Yankees for first place.

"We're playing great, the Yankees are having trouble," Schilling said. "But I don't expect them to fall down on the job. They were good enough to put 10½ games between us. We're

going to need some help to catch up."

Cleveland did its part, matching the largest shutout win in the majors since 1900, set by Pittsburgh against the Chicago Cubs on Sept. 16, 1975.

The Red Sox took a 2½-game lead over the Angels in the AL wild-card race. Anaheim had won 10 of 11.

Schilling (7-6) shut down Anaheim on three runs and nine hits, striking out four in 7½ innings to match Oakland's Mark Mulder for the major league lead in wins.

"If we just stay focused on what we're doing on a daily basis here and take care of our jobs and play the game the way we're playing it, offensively and defensively and pitching, I think we're going to do all right," Schilling said.

John Lackey (11-11) lasted just 3½ innings — the first time in 12 starts he failed to go at least five innings.

Mike Myers started the ninth for Boston and gave up three consecutive singles before Alfredo Amazez hit his first career grand slam to make it 10-7. Keith Foulke got the last three outs for his 25th save.

Athletics 7, White Sox 2: Rich Harden (9-5) pitched seven solid innings to help visiting Oakland match a season high with its eighth straight win.

Adam Melhuse homered for the A's, who won for the 13th time in 14 games

and extended their lead in the AL West to three games over Anaheim.

Twins 8, Rangers 5 (11): At Minneapolis, Torii Hunter hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the 11th and finished with a career-high six RBIs for the Twins, who maintained their seven-game lead over Cleveland in the AL Central.

Alfonso Soriano and Rod Barajas had four RBIs each for Texas, which dropped 4½ games behind Oakland in the AL West — the most the club has been out of first place this season.

Mariners 7, Blue Jays 5: Seattle rallied at SkyDome for its season-high fifth straight victory, with Ichiro Suzuki getting three hits to finish with 36 in August, the most in a month by a major league since Jeff Heath had 58 in August 1938, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

Orioles 10, Devil Rays 6 (12): Melvin Mora and Jay Gibbons homered in the 12th to win it for visiting Baltimore.

Tampa Bay's Aubrey Huff homered twice, including a tying shot with two outs in the ninth, then tied it again with an RBI single in the 11th.

Royals 9, Tigers 8: At Kansas City, Mo., Aaron Gault's sac bunt helped capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth for the Royals.



Boston Red Sox's Manny Ramirez, right, is welcomed home by teammate Johnny Damon (18) after the first of his two home runs Tuesday against the Anaheim Angels.

Shock: Ugly night for Bombers

SHOCK, FROM BACK PAGE

New York had never lost by more than 18 runs, falling 24-6 at Cleveland on July 29, 1928, and 19-1 at home against Detroit on June 17, 1925.

"They've got to come out here with a different attitude," Posada said of his teammates. "We can't worry about the Red Sox. We've got to worry about us, what we can do here."

Cleveland had season highs for runs and hits (22) and set a team record for largest shutout victory. Jake Westbrook (12-6) improved to 6-1 in his last nine starts, allowing five hits in seven innings. Jeremy Guthrie finished with hitless relief, extending the scoreless streak by Cleveland pitchers to 21 innings.

Vazquez, his head bowed and wiping sweat off his face as he walked off to boos, gave up six runs. The Indians scored seven off Tanyon Sturtz and three against C.J. Niskowski.

"I thought I had good stuff today coming into the game," said Vazquez, 2-4 in eight starts following New York losses.

His stuff was good for Cleveland, which moved back over .500 at 47-66 and remained seven games behind AL Central-leading Minnesota.

By the fifth, every Indians bat-



Cleveland Indians' Omar Vizquel is safe at second as New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter handles the fielder's choice in the first inning on Tuesday. Vizquel went 6-for-7.

ter had scored and the top eight in the order all had RBIs.

"Our goal is to make a final run at this thing," Indians manager Eric Wedge said.

Travis Hafner hit a three-run triple in the first, Coco Crisp homered and drove in three runs, and Vizquel and Martinez had four RBIs each. Vizquel had a chance for a seventh hit, but flied out in the ninth.

"Every at-bat, you try to do what fits the situation," he said. "I just happened to put the ball in play every time."

New York, booed early and often by the crowd of 51,777, has lost five straight home games for the first time since May 2003. Its

season is beginning to resemble 1978 in reverse. The Yankees dropped their fourth place and trailed the Red Sox by 14 games after play on July 19 that year, then rebounded to win the AL East in a one-game playoff.

The largest lead held by a team that failed to finish first was 11 games by the 1995 California Angels, according to Elias.

"Your job is to be negative, is to look at the dark side," Torre told reporters. "In this clubhouse, we don't do that."

Rodriguez predicted a turnaround Wednesday night when Orlando Hernandez (5-0) faces Cleveland's C. Sabathia (10-8).

"We're going to have a great September," Rodriguez said, "starting tomorrow."

Giambi back in N.Y., but return uncertain

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi walked into the New York Yankees' clubhouse Tuesday with pink in his cheeks, optimism in his voice and no idea when he'll be able to play again.

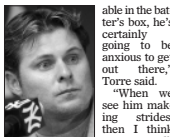
The former AL MVP, recovering from a benign tumor, intestinal parasite, strained groin and respiratory infection, saw teammates for the first time since July 27, when he left the Yankees in Toronto for tests that diagnosed the tumor.

He looked far healthier than a month earlier and said he will have a better idea by the week-end when he can rejoin the lineup. He had been working out since Aug. 11 at the team's complex in Tampa, Fla., and started taking batting practice Sunday.

"I made some big strides," said Giambi, who received hugs from teammates welcoming him back. "Over the last three days, I was able to hit and take some live BP. It shot me encouraged that there's a light."

Yankees manager Joe Torre isn't counting on having the five-time All-Star back in New York's lineup this season but said it's possible Giambi could return in about 10 days as a designated hitter.

Giambi, who hasn't played since July 23, is battling just 221 with 11 homers and 36 RBIs, going hitless in his last 21 at-bats. "Once he gets more comfort-



Giambi

able to get in the batter's box, he's certainly going to be anxious to get out there," Torre said.

"When we see him making strides, then I think we can talk about what point in time he's going to get in a ballgame."

Giambi and the Yankees haven't specified where the tumor is or what treatment he has received. Giambi was evasive when asked about for specifics about the tumor and wouldn't say whether he's still under treatment.

"I'm not going to get into that," he said. "I took care of Jason as a human being. Now I'm back to a baseball player."

He felt a little dizzy working out in the Florida heat but thought he "turned the corner."

"I've got a lot of my strength back," he said. "My treddiness is starting to go away. That's the biggest thing."

If the 33-year-old first baseman makes quick progress, he could be sent for a rehabilitation assignment before minor league seasons end in early September.

"We have a small window of opportunity here to get him back in time," Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman said. "The clock is obviously working against us."

Finley returns to bite D-backs

L.A. wins in 13th on RBI double

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Steve Finley looked right at home in Arizona. The former Arizona star, traded to Los Angeles on July 31, single-handedly did in his old teammates Tuesday night in his first game back at Bank One Ballpark.

Finley homered off Randy Johnson in the sixth, then hit a bases-loaded double in the 13th, driving in all four runs in the Dodgers' 4-1 victory over Arizona.

He hit 337 in his first month with the Dodgers, driving in 25 runs in 27 games.

"He's obviously made a huge difference already for us in a number of games, and I think he is going to continue to pay dividends for us," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said.

Finley's return overshadowed another typical performance by Johnson: three hits, one run and 15 strikeouts in eight innings.

But, in what has become a team tradition, the five-time Cy Young Award winner suffered from a lack of run support. The team has scored two runs or fewer 10 times in a loss by its ace, who leads the majors with a 2.71 ERA.

Johnson increased his major league-leading strikeouts total to 242, and pushed his career total to 4,113 — 23 shy of Steve Carlton's record for left-handers. It was Johnson's first straight game with at least 10 strikeouts, his 11th this year and 202nd of his career. Only Nolan Ryan (215) has had more games with double-digit strikeouts.

"He could be the Cy Young

L Roundup

Award winner," Finley said. "I mean, when I was here there was at least five, six, seven games that he should have won that we just didn't score any runs."

Eric Gagne pitched two scoreless innings for the victory, which kept the first-place Dodgers 5½ games in front of San Francisco in the NL West.

Giants 9, Rockies 5: Yorvit Torrealba and Marquis Grissom homered, and Ray Durham hit a tying three-run double in San Francisco to help the Giants pull into a virtual tie with Chicago for the wild-card lead.

Barry Bonds went 1-for-2 with a double — which a fan caught by leaning over the center-field wall — and remained at 696 home runs.

Expos 8, Cubs 0: Livan Hernandez allowed three hits in eight scoreless innings, and Brad Wilkerson and Maicer Izturis hit home runs at Olympic Stadium.

Chicago has lost four of five after being just one in its previous nine wins.

Mark Prior (4-4) allowed four runs in the first, including Wilkerson's leadoff homer. The Chicago closer gave up six hits and five runs in five innings.

Marlins 5, Mets 0: At New York, Josh Beckett pitched a six-hitter for his first regular-season shutout.

It was the Marlins' fifth straight win and eighth in 10



Arizona Diamondbacks' Randy Johnson delivers a pitch during Tuesday's game against Los Angeles. Johnson struck out 15 over eight innings but was left with a no-decision.

games, moving them to within three games of the wild-card lead.

Beckett (6-8) won for only the second time since May 20, when he beat Houston 4-3. He also drove in a run with a bases-loaded walk.

Cardinals 9, Padres 3: Jim Edmonds homered twice at Busch Stadium, giving him seven in six games.

Albert Pujols and Edgar Renteria also homered and had three hits each for the NL Central leaders. Reggie Sanders also had three hits and an RBI.

Woody Williams (10-7) became the fifth member of the Cardinals' rotation to reach double figures in victories.

Brewers 4, Pirates 2: The Brewers won at home to snap a 12-game losing streak and avoid the worst month in franchise history.

Streaking Astros rout Reds

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — One inning, four pitches, three home runs — that was more than enough for the streaking Houston Astros.

Jeff Kent homered twice and Houston hit three straight shots in the fifth inning Tuesday night to help the Astros beat the Cincinnati Reds 8-0 for their fifth straight win and eighth in nine games.

Carlos Beltran, Jeff Bagwell and Lance Berkman hit consecutive home runs for the Astros, who pulled within three games of the NL wild-card lead after the Chicago Cubs' 8-0 loss at Montreal.

Brandon Backe (2-2) scattered

three hits over six shutout innings to win for the first time in three career starts. He threw seven shutout innings in a no-decision game in his first career start on Aug. 21.

The Reds got just one runner past second base against Backe.

Barry Larkin went to third on Sean Casey's two-out double in the sixth, but Backe struck out Adam Dunn looking to end the threat.

"I had already gotten him out twice," Backe said. "On 3-2, I threw him a backdoor slider. First base was open, so I wasn't going to leave it in the middle of the plate. He wanted to go going to take it for a ball, take it for a strike or swing through it."

"Backe was in some jams, but he made pitch when he had to," manager Phil Garner said.

Relievers Chad Qualls, Mike

Gallo and Dan Wheeler allowed a combined three hits over the final three innings for Houston's 11th shutout of the season.

Aaron Harang (8-7) allowed four home runs in five innings and lost for the fourth time in five starts.

Cardinals hope Ankiel's wild ways are behind him

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Rick Ankiel's return to the major leagues might not be just a September cameo.

The left-hander, who'll be activated from the 15-day disabled list Wednesday, has been impressive enough during rehab from reconstructive elbow surgery that he'll be considered for the St. Louis Cardinals' postseason roster.

Manager Tony La Russa said he'd use Ankiel, who last pitched in the majors in 2001, in relief or use him as a spot starter to rest members of the rotation heading into the playoffs.

Asked if Ankiel, 25, was a candidate to pitch in the postseason, La Russa replied: "Yeah, sure, absolutely."

The Cardinals began a three-game series against the San Diego Padres with a 14½-game lead in the NL Central and a magic number of 18 for clinching the division.

La Russa said he'd treat Ankiel, who reached the majors at age 19 before being derailed by wildness and injuries, much like he did with Matt Morris in 2000 when the right-hander was coming off reconstructive elbow surgery. In other words, he won't base everything on Ankiel's performance this month.

"The fairest thing is like Matt coming off that injury, it's what happened the next year," La Russa said. "That's really the fairest way to look at Rick."

"What you've got here is a bonus, for him and for us."

Ankiel was 11-7 with a 3.50 ERA in 2000, leading the staff with 194 strikeouts in 175 innings. His career took a drastic turn for the worse in the playoffs when he threw eight wild pitches in two games.

He missed the entire 2002 season with a sprained elbow and was 2-6 with a 6.29 ERA at Double-A Tennessee last year before tearing an elbow ligament in July.



He began his comeback at Class A Palm Beach this year and in seven starts at three levels, he was 2-1 with an 0.79 ERA.

In 22 2½ innings, he walked two and hit one — but he did not throw a wild pitch.

Ankiel was expected to join the Cardinals on Tuesday.

Cubs acquire Grieve, DiFelice

MILWAUKEE — The Chicago Cubs made a pair of trades Tuesday, getting outfielder Ben Grieve from the Milwaukee Brewers and acquiring backup catcher Mike DiFelice from the Detroit Tigers.

The deals came on the final day for teams to obtain players and have them be eligible for postseason rosters. The Cubs led the NL wild-card race going into Tuesday night's game at Montreal.

Chicago sent a minor league player to be named and cash to the Brewers for Grieve, and gave up a player to be named for DiFelice.

Top Diamondbacks draft pick withdraws from Florida State

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Stephen Drew, Arizona's top draft pick, decided to withdraw from classes at Florida State on Tuesday and continue contract negotiations with the Diamondbacks.

Drew, selected with the 15th pick in June's amateur draft, signed up for classes last week but wasn't scheduled to attend until Tuesday.

The Diamondbacks would have lost their rights to Drew if he attended a class before agreeing to a contract.

"Stephen Drew and his family feel the two sides can agree on a deal that satisfies both parties," Florida State coach Mike Martin said.

Cardinals' Kline out 3-4 weeks

ST. LOUIS — Cardinals reliever Steve Kline will be sidelined three to four weeks with a torn groin, but hopes to recover in time for the postseason.

An MRI exam Tuesday revealed the extent of the injury sustained by the lefty while fielding a bunt on Friday. He was placed on the 15-day disabled list on Monday and with the Cardinals leading the NL Central by 15½ games, he's not going to try to rush back.

Red Sox get minor league catcher from Cleveland

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox bought the contract of minor league catcher Sandy Martinez from the Cleveland Indians on Tuesday.

Martinez batted .274 with 17 homers and 47 RBIs for Cleveland's Triple-A affiliate in Buffalo. The Red Sox assigned him to Triple-A Buffalo.

The Indians will receive an undisclosed amount of cash.

Tennis' newest diva averts disaster

Wimbledon champ Sharapova escapes scare in U.S. Open; Safin eliminated

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maria Sharapova nearly found out how quickly one can go from diva to disaster.

No reigning Wimbledon women's champion has lost in the first round of the U.S. Open, and Sharapova was just one game from that fate. Then she steered herself to win 12 of the last 14 points and got past Laura Granville 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 Tuesday night.

"My game went off for a while. I went to La-La Land," the 17-year-old Siberian-turned-Floridian said, "but I came back to Earth."

She wasn't the only top player pushed to the limit on Day 2 at Flushing Meadows: 2000 Open winner Marat Safin and 11th-seeded Rainer Schuettler lost, while 2003 runner-up Juan Carlos Ferrero and No. 5 Tim Henman needed five sets to win.

Safin, Schuettler and Ferrero were put in the same quarter of the draw as 2003 champion Andy Roddick, who followed Sharapova in Arthur Ashe Stadium and broke the tournament's 19th-straight 152 mph serve during a 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 victory over 17-year-old Scoville Jenkins.

One indication of how players slide from star to afterthought: While Sharapova was on the National Tennis Center's main stage, 2000-01 Open champ Venus Williams was in the last day-session match at another court.

Made to wait until after 8:30 p.m. to play, because she was scheduled to hit the court after Henman and Ferrero, Williams was broken while serving for the match but eventually pulled out a 6-3, 7-6 (3) win over 64th-ranked Petr Mandula of Hungary.

"What I need to focus on for my next one is the second round," said Williams, seeded No. 11 after a year of injuries and earlier-than-usual losses in majors. "I'm not really thinking ahead too far."

On Wednesday, Daniela Hantuchova, ranked as high as fifth in the world last year but currently No. 32, defeated No. 17 seed Alicia Molik 6-4, 6-3. Molik won the bronze medal in the Athens Olympics.

In another early match Wednesday, No. 12 Ai Sugiyama beat Gisela Dulko 6-2, 6-4. Third-seeded Serena Williams and second-seeded Amel Mauresmo played second-round matches in the day session Wednesday.



Maria Sharapova, above, a 17-year-old from Russia, won 12 of the match's final 14 points in a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Laura Granville on Tuesday. Sharapova trailed 5-4 in the third set. No Wimbledon champion has ever lost in the first round of the U.S. Open.



Defending U.S. Open champ Andy Roddick, above, unleashed a tournament-record 152 mph serve during a 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 triumph Tuesday over 17-year-old Scoville Jenkins.

On the men's side, fourth-seeded Lleyton Hewitt sees his first action with a match against Wayne Ferreira.

After cruising through the first set against 68th-ranked Granville of Chicago before a subdued crowd, Sharapova was suddenly in trouble late in the second. Down 6-5, Sharapova faced her first break point of the match, which she saved with a 101 mph service winner on a second serve. But she double-faulted to grant Granville another break point, then slapped a forehand into the net.

Granville — never beyond the second round in the Open — was within a game of a serious surprise, ahead 5-4 in the third set. That's when Sharapova took over, holding at 15, breaking at love with a superb cross-court backhand winner, then holding again at 15.

When she hit her 10th ace, followed by a service winner, to end it, her sunglasses-wearing father jumped and pounded his fist on his chest. Sharapova mimicked that gesture, then — just as she did after stunning Serena Williams in Wimbledon's final — went to grab her phone to call Mom.

"It's all about the spirit," Sharapova said after her 2-hour, 9-minute adventure.

"Hanging in there, and trying to do your best."

Safin might want to take a note or two. Late in his 7-6 (5), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 loss to 59th-ranked Tomas Enqvist, Safin grabbed his racket with both hands, leaned forward, and cracked it to the court three times, as if chopping wood with an axe.

It was a brief show of anger, a tiny indication that he cared whether or not he lost in the first round of the Slam he won four years ago. Neither his play nor his words lent much insight.

Just like at Wimbledon, Safin exited in the earliest stage.

"Believe me, I'm trying," Safin said, a grin creeping across his face. "If I would like to myself, I would say it's Thomas' fault. But I don't want to lie to myself. A huge part of it is my fault, because I let him play well."

The 13th-seeded Russian was broken twice while serving for the first set, waved lazily at shots down the stretch and kept his usual muttering to a minimum.

Compare that effort to Henman's. His poorest Slam results have come in the Open, so he can't have past success to help, the way Safin could if he wanted.

Battling a bad back that kept him off the practice court for three days, Henman withstood 6-foot-10 Ivko Karlovic's 39 aces and toughed it out for more than 3½ hours in a 7-6 (3), 6-7, 6-7, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory. Ferrero had an even longer day, playing 4½ hours to cobble together a 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6), 6-7 (4), 6-4 win over Tomas Zib, a Czech qualifier who's never won a Grand Slam match.

"I wasn't going to get frustrated if he was going to serve aces or stuff, because it saved me doing the running," Henman said. "I felt like I kept my head about me pretty well throughout the whole match."

A sentiment Safin isn't ever likely to express, although you never know what he'll come up with.

In the French Open, he caused a stir by dropping his shorts to celebrate a terrific point. In Wimbledon, he said he was fed up with trying to win there and took the time to point out that tennis doesn't belong in the Olympics.

He's been fined for all sorts of things: swearing at a chair umpire, berating a tournament sponsor for not replacing the courtesy car he crashed, failing to show enough effort in a first-round loss to a qualifier in the 2000 Australian Open.

Defending U.S. Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne found herself in some trouble Tuesday, trailing 15-year-old Nicole Pietrangeli 4-1 in the second set. But the top-ranked Belgian won the last five games to close on a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Past winners of Slam titles Lindsay Davenport (who stretched her winning streak to 18 matches), Anastasia Myskina and Andrei Pavlyuchenko are in straight sets.

See scores on Page 42.

Davenport extends winning streak to 18 matches

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sitting with legs crossed during a changeover, Lindsay Davenport waved off the ballgirl offering water, saying: "No, thanks. I'm OK."

She is ever.

In a fifth-seeded Davenport stretched her winning streak to 18 matches by beating Lubomira Kurhajcova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-0 on Tuesday in the U.S. Open's first round.

In the two months ago, the 26-year-old Davenport was talking about retiring after this sea-

U.S. Open notes

son. When she lost to Maria Sharapova in the Wimbledon semifinals, Davenport said it probably would be her final appearance at the All England Club.

What a mistake that would be, given her recent form. Davenport has won her past four tournaments, all played on hard courts, just like the Open.

"Maybe that took some pressure off me, just to think: 'Oh, who cares what happens now,'"

said Davenport, who built a 36-7 edge in winners and needed just 50 minutes to beat Kurhajcova. "Going to see how I feel in November and take it from there."

Asked if she could imagine not being in the 2005 U.S. Open, Davenport said: "Some days, yes."

Her first Grand Slam trophy came in the 1998 U.S. Open, and she added titles at Wimbledon in 1999 and the Australian Open in 2000.

But she's had health problems recently, including operations on her right knee in 2002 and her left foot last year.

"If I play next year, I want to

make sure that I'm committed for the year and that I can play through the good times and the bad times and be mentally strong all year," she said. "I'm going to have to really see if I can do that."

Players help fallen ballboy

Jiri Novak and Radek Stapek helped a ballboy who fell from fatigue and dehydration during their match.

"He wasn't moving for 20 to 30 seconds. Everyone was scared," Novak said Tuesday.

The 13-year-old passed out a day earlier when he jumped to retrieve a ball with the score tied

5-11 in the first set of the first-round match — played in overbearing humidity — and fell hard to the court.

Novak ran from the opposite side to assist the teenager, along with Stapek and several other ballboys and line judges. They raised his legs and, when he regained consciousness, gave him water.

By the time first aid arrived, the ballboy was feeling better and wanted to continue. He walked off the court.

The ballboy was allowed to return to work Monday, according to U.S. Tennis Association spokesman Chris Widmaier.

Kobe must be sweating bullets by now

So we heard the leaks and we watched the administrative slapstick in the courthouse and we were left with the distinct impression that the rape case against Kobe Bryant was somewhere between unwinnable and unraveling. Yet the potential jurors assemble.

It is Bryant's worst nightmare.

For months now, we have witnessed what we all thought would be the dismissal of the charges against Bryant. We have seen the alleged victim in the case vilified, in large part because of the ineptitude of the court staff in Eagle County, Colo. Her name was mistakenly released by the staff on the court Web site. Allegations about her conduct — allegations that should have remained sealed until trial — were e-mailed to reporters by the court staff, again by mistake, and without any opportunity for rebuttal by the prosecution. Then came the filing of a civil suit by the victim, a sure sign that she wanted out — because now she will be painted as nothing more than a gold digger in the criminal case, with court documents she filed herself to back up the charge.

For weeks and months it has built this way, disappointing

Rich Hoffmann



drumbeat after drumbeat, another awful demonstration of our system's inability to deal adequately with celebrity, the alleged victims of celebrity, and the crime of acquaintance

rape. The whole thing clearly seemed destined for derailment. Yet the potential jurors assemble, hundreds of them, and they fill out questionnaires and await the winning process.

And Bryant must be dying inside.

It is among our older clichés, but so true: You never know. Once a jury is impaneled, once testimony begins, once the inevitable surprises happen — and they are inevitable and, it seems, even more inevitable in a celebrity trial — there are no guarantees anymore.

Sometimes, all the billable hours in the world don't matter.

Anybody who disputes this is lying or uninformed. If you watched any of O.J. Simpson's trial, you know that. If you watched Mike Tyson's trial — which wasn't televised, but which

I had a chance to cover in Indianapolis — you especially know that.

Tyson's was really the first celebrity sports trial. He had a lousy reputation then, as now, but the feeling going in was of uncertainty.

Who knew what happened in that hotel room with a young beauty-pageant contestant? Yes, there was medical evidence — but, still: How would the crime be proved? The expectation was that, along with some ancillary characters, Tyson and his accuser, Desiree Washington, would testify, and that the jury would decide which of the two it believed. On that score, Washington did well and Tyson did OK.

But along the way, well, no one would have guessed.

There was the fire, for instance. Yes, fire. The jury was actually burned out of its hotel in the middle of the trial, a tragedy in which two firemen and another hotel guest were killed. A huge security clampdown followed — and, back in 1992, the sight of additional metal detectors and barking dogs was, indeed, huge. The whole building was on edge after that.

Then there were the surprise witnesses. Like a bad "Law and Order" episode, the defense sud-

denly came up with three witnesses in the middle of the trial — more than 6 months after Tyson had been arrested. They were all affiliated with a local clergyman who was a pal of Tyson's promoter, Don King. At least one of the witnesses was prepared to testify that she saw Tyson and Washington being arm-in-arm affectionate in a limousine outside the hotel before the rape occurred.

The judge, a no-nonsense woman named Patricia Gifford, was furious and didn't try to hide it. If she had allowed the surprise witnesses to testify, the prosecution would have had to retry its case, pretty much. It would have had to recall both the victim and the two drivers, who had been very effective in describing how upset Washington was after she left his hotel, and very believable because of her full-time job as a school counselor.

What the jury didn't know was the limo driver's testimony that the surprise witnesses had been only hours before meeting Washington.

Gifford excluded that testimony as unfairly prejudicial; she really had not been anti-Tyson. But, setting now, Gifford disallowed the surprise witnesses and opened herself up for an appeal that ultimately failed. At this point, it really had become

bad-TV-come-to-life.

But then there was the Tyson defense strategy, maybe the biggest surprise of all. The defense's problem was that Tyson had pretty much fondled and/or grabbed and/or propositioned about half of the security-pageant contestants. How to deal with such pigish behavior? Well, the defense decided to embrace it.

Shockingly, pageant contestant after pageant contestant was brought to the stand and asked three questions: How do you spell your name, what's your hometown, and where did Tyson grab you? And this was by Tyson's own attorneys.

Their defense: Everybody else knew he was a pig, why blame Washington? It was like blaming the murder victim for walking down a dark street at night — and the jury didn't buy it. A coin toss going in turned into a slam dunk.

The cynicism of that defense, playing into every bad racial stereotype, was stunning. It was something no one would have predicted going in, like the fire and the surprise witnesses and the speed of the verdict.

The point, again, is obvious: You never know.

It is why Kobe Bryant sweats today.

Rich Hoffmann is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

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Jury selection in Bryant case still on schedule

The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — About three-quarters of potential jurors in Kobe Bryant's sexual assault case have already been told whether to return to the court-

house later this week for more questioning, putting the selecting the middle of the trial, a tragedy in which two firemen and another hotel guest were killed. A huge security clampdown followed — and, back in 1992, the sight of additional metal detectors and barking dogs was, indeed, huge. The whole building was on edge after that.

On schedule, court officials say. Individual questioning of jury candidates was expected to be finished by midday Wednesday, with open-court jury selection scheduled to begin Thursday.

"We are exactly on track," state courts spokeswoman Karen Salas said.

Opening statements are expected Sept. 7.

The jury selection Tuesday was interrupted by a brief open-court hearing prosecutors sought to air concerns about the process.

"It is my understanding that many jurors yesterday indicated they had gleaned a lot of information not only from the press but from folks around town," prosecutor Ingrid Bakke said. "It's information that wasn't come up at trial, but that is very prejudicial to this case."

She said those with a strong opinion on Bryant's guilt or innocence based on that kind of information should be questioned only behind closed doors. Open-court questioning should be conducted as long as the queries don't delve into information beyond a person's opinions, she said.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegel said although he was aware of

Bakke's concerns, he was still bound to conduct some questioning in open court. Jurors are instructed to reach a verdict based only on evidence presented in court, something the judge called "a monumental task in this case."

Jury selection began Friday. Attorneys have been conducting closed-door questioning of prospective panelists, seeking out their attitudes about race, experience with sexual assault and any effect pretrial publicity has had on them.

Bryant has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with a then-19-year-old employee at a Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer. If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers' star faces four years to life in prison or 20 years on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Bobcats sign Knight

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Point guard Brevin Knight signed with the Charlotte Bobcats on Tuesday, making him the most experienced player on the expansion team.

Knight has averaged 7.2 points, 6.1 assists and 1.8 steals in his seven-year career.

"Brevin brings the natural, innate qualities needed for a point guard and he owns a great feel for the game," coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff said. "He is a competitor and he will

bring that intensity to the younger players on our team."

The 5-foot-10 Knight averaged 4.7 points and 3.6 assists in 56 games for Phoenix, Washington and Milwaukee last season.

Knight was a first-round pick by Cleveland in the 1997 draft. He spent more than three seasons with the Cavaliers, earning all-rookie first team honors by averaging 9 points, 8.2 assists and 2.5 steals.

Blazers agree to terms with restricted free-agent Miles

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Portland Trail Blazers agreed to terms with restricted free agent Darius Miles on Tuesday.

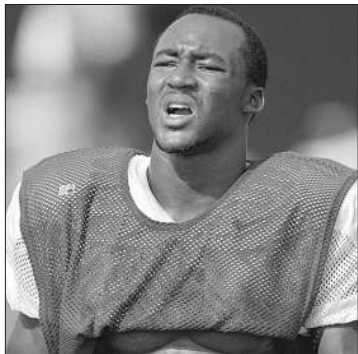
Details of the contract were not immediately released. The Blazers scheduled a news conference on Wednesday.

Miles was acquired by Portland last season in a trade with the Cleveland Cavaliers for guard Jeff McInnis and seldom-used center Ruben Boumtje-Boumtje.

The 6-foot-9 forward provided an instant boost to the Blazers both on the court and in the locker room.

He averaged 12.6 points, 4.6 rebounds and two assists a game in 42 games with the Blazers. He shot 52.6 percent from the field.

Miles was drafted by the Clippers with the third overall pick in the 2000 NBA Draft out of East St. Louis High School in Illinois.



Florida State receiver Craphonso Thorpe, who missed the Seminoles' last meeting with Miami, is the team's most dangerous offensive player.

Thorpe can give FSU a leg up against Miami

BY BRENT KALLESTAD
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The last time Florida State and Miami played, the Seminoles were without their most explosive offensive player — and it showed.

With wide receiver Craphonso Thorpe sidelined with a broken leg, Florida State went with an unusually conservative game plan in the Orange Bowl. Chris Rix completed just six passes for 96 yards, spending much of the game handing off, and the Hurricanes won 16-14.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden concedes that Thorpe's absence was part of the reason for his team's "vanilla" game plan. He also believes Thorpe's return could make a difference in the season opener Monday night when No. 5 Florida State visits No. 6 Miami.

"Anytime Thorpe's in the game you might go longer more," said Bowden, noting that Miami's stingy defense also played a part in his game plan.

"This year, you can forget vanilla," Bowden continued. "There will be a mixture of it this year. Rainbow offense."

And the passing game will feature Thorpe.

Now 30 pounds heavier than when he arrived at Florida State in the summer of 2001, Thorpe has averaged 20 yards a catch on his 83 career receptions with 16 touchdowns, including two covering 79 and 72 yards.

Thorpe, a former Atlantic Coast Conference 100- and 200-meter sprint champion, had 51 catches for 994 yards and 11 touchdowns last season before reuniting his leg against North Carolina State and missing the final two games.

Miami coach Larry Coker knows all about the 6-foot-2, 194-pound receiver, a player he tried to recruit out of Tallahassee.

"He's one of those guys who can change a game, turn the

game around," Coker said. "Take a short gain and take it the distance. He's got great speed."

Thorpe didn't do much in the first meeting against Miami last season, a game played on a treacherous, soggy field in Tallahassee.

But the Hurricanes were one of the few teams that managed to contain Thorpe.

He had one catch for 48 yards in Miami's 22-14 regular season win in Tallahassee last October. In his other 10 games, Thorpe averaged five catches for nearly 95 yards.

With P.K. Sam leaving a year early for the NFL, the beefed-up Thorpe has even more responsibilities this year. Sam caught 50 passes for 735 yards and five touchdowns, including the last-minute, game-winner at Florida.

"The biggest thing is the boost in confidence it gives myself and our offense knowing that our biggest playmaker is returning," Rix said. "It gives us an extra thrust to say the least."

The Seminoles are counting on senior receiver Chauncey Stovall to help keep some of the pressure off Thorpe as well as up-and-coming speedsters Chris Davis and Willie Reid.

"You're only as good as your weakest link, and that's where the offense is trying to make sure nobody is a weak link," Thorpe said. "Those guys can get the job done."

Thorpe also has developed a good chemistry with Rix, witnessed by last year's breakout campaign.

"He throws a deep ball extremely well," said Thorpe, a sports management major scheduled to graduate in the spring.

Thorpe said he didn't think about turning pro after his junior season, even after huge games against Colorado and Notre Dame, when he caught 15 passes for 422 yards and four TDs.

Mostly, Thorpe is just happy to be back on the field — particularly for a game against Miami.

BY DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The challenge facing Ralph Friedgen this season is similar to the one he tackled upon his arrival at Maryland.

His goal: To buck the odds and make the 22nd-ranked Terrapins a force in the powerful Atlantic Coast Conference.

This time, though, instead of trying to build a winner, Friedgen will attempt to sustain an unprecedented run of success. He will seek to do so in a beefed-up conference and with the youngest team he's ever had.

If he can win with this group, then Friedgen is worth every penny of an upgraded contract that will pay him an average of \$1.5 million for the next eight years.

The Terrapins have little game experience at quarterback, one senior on the defensive line and just one returning starter in the secondary. In addition, Maryland will be competing in an ACC that now includes Miami and Virginia Tech.

"It's not going to be easy because we have a lot of young players," senior receiver and kick returner Steve Suter said. "We're going to have a lot of new players stepping into new roles."

But the Terrapins have

Friedgen, who knows a thing or two about overcoming adversity.

Before he arrived, Maryland went 10 years without a bowl appearance and was 37-73-1 since 1990. Football games were poorly attended, and most Terp fans lost interest once the basketball team held its Midnight Madness ceremony each October.

Friedgen changed all that. He guided Maryland to the ACC title in his first season, took the Terrapins to the Peach Bowl the following year and last season capped another spectacular effort with a rout of West Virginia in the Gator Bowl.

Now, after going 31-8 — the best record by a coach after three seasons in ACC history — Friedgen is looking to keep a good thing going.

The key to the Terrapins' success is tied to the development of sophomore quarterback Joel Statham, who takes over for the dependable Scott McBrien as the leader of an offense that also lost standout running back Bruce Perry.

Statham got his experience under fire last year, coming in relief of an injured McBrien in a road game against Georgia Tech.

He failed to produce a touchdown and Maryland lost the game, but the experience he's gained this summer has Friedgen

thinking Statham might develop into a solid quarterback.

"His decision-making has been excellent. The ball's going to the right place a lot of the time," the coach said. "What we have to do better is finish the play."

The off-injured Perry will be replaced by Josh Allen, a junior who last year led the team in yards rushing (922) and touchdowns (nine). Allen will get help from Sammy Maldonado, whose 2003 season was cut short by a knee injury.

The focal points of the defense are cornerback Dominique Foxworth, who had three interceptions and 45 tackles, and linebacker D'Qwell Jackson who was seventh in the ACC in tackles at 10.5 per game.

A year ago, the Terrapins started the season 1-2 before rallying to give Friedgen his third consecutive 10-win season. Maryland would love to get off to a quick start, but it's essential that the Terrapins be playing their best football at a time for a stretch of four games beginning Oct. 23 against Clemson, Florida State, Virginia and Virginia Tech.

"The biggest thing we have to adjust to is the youth at some key positions, such as quarterback," offensive guard C.J. Brooks said. "I think we have the potential to have another really good season. Hopefully we can make it back to 10 wins — or even more."

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ "Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with a cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat." — Mark Twain

★ Dear Servicemen and women, Thank you so much for all you are doing and sacrificing by serving your country. I am just one citizen in Minnesota, but I appreciate it more than words can express. I will think of you and pray for you daily. Megan Megan Mertes MN

★ I'm a fifteen year old girl, and I live in Florida. I'm not really happy about this war, but I'm coping with it. I happen to have a lot of friends fighting in this war and I fear for their safety. However I would love them to know how much I support them and can't wait for them to come back to us. This war has changed us so much even the small things. Even with me I have never been up with news and stuff, but now I find myself always glued to find out more info. I only hope that this can hurry up and be over with so that we can go back to living as normal as possible with our family and friends back safe from the middle east. - Kiera

To The Love Of My Life F. B. Acevedo Jr

Keeper Of My Heart - Felix
Never truly thought it possible
Nothing seems real
Except when you hold me
Let me tell you how I feel
In your embrace I feel whole
Never left with doubt
You are the one for me
Someone I cannot go without
That look in your eyes
The feelings in your touch
Your sensitivity and consideration
It all means so much
Can you understand
What I'm trying to say
Or am I just grasping here
I'll put it another way
You ask me how did I get so lucky
Because you're a class apart
It is why you are and will always be
The Keeper Of My Heart.

Breathing room

Emerging Hollings giving Davis breaks in Texans' backfield

By MARK BABINECK

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Domanick Davis picked up right where he left off last year. Then Tony Hollings picked up right where he left off in 2002.

Davis, who missed the first two preseason games with a bum left ankle, ran for 37 yards on his first six preseason carries last week before getting a breather in the thin Denver air.

Enter Hollings, who hasn't been 100 percent since tearing a ligament in his right knee two years ago at Georgia Tech. He took his first carry of the game 27 yards for a score.

"You look at it like, 'Yeah, I did score the touchdown,' but it was the drive [Davis] was in," Hollings said. "When it goes on the board, it doesn't go down as Tony Hollings scoring seven points, it goes down as the Texans scoring seven points."

Last year, Davis' absence would have meant Houston playing a past-his-prime Stanley Mack, an unspectacular Jonathan Wells or a banged-up Hollings.

No more. "Domanick runs so hard he's going to need a break every once in a while," quarterback David Carr said. "Really, the only way to give him a rest is to take him off the field, because if he's not getting the ball he's going to block someone 60 pounds more than him as hard as he can."



Houston Texans running back Domanick Davis is firmly entrenched as the starter after rushing for 1,031 yards as a rookie last season.

The Texans don't have a two-headed backfield or a running back committee. Davis clearly is "the man" after a breakout rookie season in which the fourth-round draft choice ran for 1,031 yards.

Houston believes it has, for the first time in its young history, an explosive backfield who can produce in short bursts or longer if an injury occurs.

Hollings also presents an entirely different style to defenses.

Where Davis succeeds using vision, quick cuts and strength, Hollings' threat is speed.

"He's more of a power runner," Hollings said, recalling a play at Denver when Davis broke six tackles. "I'm more of a run-past-you type of guy."



Tony Hollings, above, is developing into a capable backup to Davis, and his speed gives the Texans' offense an added dimension when he enters the game.

The one thing the tailbacks have in common is uncelebrated collegiate careers. Davis got plenty of playing time at Louisiana State, was considered a backup and kick returner.

Hollings had just four starts as a tailback at Georgia Tech after beginning as a defensive back. In those starts, though, he was leading the nation in 2002 with 633 yards and 11 touchdowns before blowing out his knee.

Houston spent a 2003 second-round draft pick on him in the supplemental draft, ostensibly as their tailback of the future. He hobbled through last season while Davis changed the Texans' plans with his performance.

Still, Hollings is thrilled he's going to be an important cog.

"I'm just excited to be out there, to be able to run and make cuts full-speed and not worry about my knee, to just play the game," Hollings said.

Davis is more than happy for a little relief, even if it sometimes means he doesn't score.

"Let me do the dirty work, running in the middle and everything, and he comes in with fresh legs and punches it in," Davis said. "The whole team gets the points. It's not about me or Tony, it's about the team."

Air Force player found innocent of steroid charges

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force linebacker Overton Spence was found innocent of drug charges Wednesday after telling a court-martial he thought the steroids he had taken were legal.

Spence wept and hugged teammate Jon Wilson when the verdict was read. He declined to speak to reporters, but his civilian attorney, Serge Herscovici, said Spence hopes to return to the academy football team.

Prosecutor Capt. Garrett Conrad had accused Spence of engaging in "a locker room drug deal" that went bad.

Spence had signed a statement admitting he bought and used the steroid nandrolone but testified that he did not know he had broken the law.

"I never intended to possess or had knowledge of possession of illegal steroids. I only intended to possess legal steroids that you could buy" in any health specialty store, Spence said.

His defense lawyers accused investigators of jumping to conclusions and interrogating Spence before lab tests showed the steroid was illegal.

Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry testified that when Spence told him he was being investigated, the cadet said he thought the supplements were legal.

"He maintained his total innocence as to his not knowing what he was taking," DeBerry said.

Spence, 20, was a backup who played mostly on special teams last season. He was suspended from the team after the charges were filed. It was not immediately clear whether he would be reinstated.

Herscovici said Spence could face a one-year suspension from the NCAA.

Spence, a junior, faced up to 10 years' imprisonment if he had been convicted.

Three other cadets, including running back Matthew Ward, still face steroid charges.

Also, Air Force said Wednesday its athletics director will report directly to the school's top officer instead of the second-in-command, reversing a reform imposed after a sexual assault scandal last year.

U.S. volleyball player Stanley gets suspended sentence

ATHENS, Greece — A U.S. Olympic volleyball player was given a 15-month suspended sentence Wednesday for assaulting an officer and resisting arrest.

Stanley, who played at the University of Hawaii, said he was drunk at the time and apologized for Sunday's scuffle at a nightclub following the closing ceremony of the Olympics.

Stanley, who now lives in Greece and plays for a local team, also was charged with assaulting a pregnant woman during the

Sports briefs

scuffle but those charges were subsequently dropped.

The U.S. team completed competition Sunday, losing the bronze medal match to Russia.

Hokies freshman LB Adibi out for year

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Xavier Adibi, a redshirt freshman linebacker at Virginia Tech, will miss the rest of the season after having surgery to reattach a tendon in his right biceps muscle to the humerus bone, the school said Tuesday.

Adibi was injured in the Hokies' season opening loss to top-ranked Southern Cal in the Black Coaches Association Classic in Landover, Md. He was operated on Tuesday by Dr. Marc Siegel in a one-hour procedure at Montgomery Regional Hospital in Blacksburg.

Mike Goforth, trainer for the Hokies, said Adibi will have his arm in a sling for about six weeks and the surgery took six weeks of rehabilitation. He should be ready to return by spring practice next season as a redshirt sophomore, Goforth said.

The Hokies will start senior Mike Sweeney in Adibi's spot and give redshirt freshman Vince Hall his first start at the mike position against Western Michigan on Sept. 11.

Texas retiring Bevo XIII

AUSTIN — It's official. Bevo XIII, the University of Texas' mascot, is being put out to pasture to make way for a new longhorn.

Pregame and halftime ceremonies at Saturday night's football home-opener against North Texas will usher in a new Bevo, a 2-year-old checking in at about 1,300 pounds.

Officials with the Silver Spurs spirit club that manages the mascot have been considering retiring the 20-year-old Bevo XIII since before last season's Holiday Bowl.

After 16 seasons on the sidelines, they decided he'd had enough.

Bevo XIII is the longest tenured Bevo. With a 124-67-2 record during his tenure, he has seen more Longhorns victories than any other Bevo.

Mystics place Holdslaw on injured list

WASHINGTON — Chamique Holdslaw was placed on the injured list Tuesday, meaning she'll miss at least three games for the Washington Mystics.

Mystics coach Dan Adelman said the nature of her health problem, which came up in late July and sidelined her for three of Washington's four games before the Olympic break. She is the WNBA's second-leading scorer behind Seattle's Lauren Jackson.

Ibis Tek



The Ibis Tek Ram Bumper attached to the front of the vehicle enables the HMMVY to easily push objects in its path without any damage being done to the front end. Without the Ram Bumper existing vehicle parts are easily damaged sometimes destroying the critical cooling components of the vehicle. With the Ram Bumper attached to the vehicle the HMMVY can easily "push" its way through barriers or other vehicles maliciously put in front of the HMMVY.

The Ram Bumper attaches in a matter of minutes without any special tools and provides the protection you require for your mission. Cutout in front provides mounting for the front winch if desired.

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DeWoodson, Sanders report for duty

Raiders' corner ends holdout, signs tender

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Charles Woodson's monthlong holdout didn't yield the "boat load of money" he said he was looking for, so it was time to show up at Oakland Raiders' training camp.

Woodson signed a one-year tender for \$8.782 million on Tuesday, joining the team for the first time after a 33-day holdout.

"I think everybody is just ready for me to get in here, and get into the thick of things and get ready to play football," he said.

"The players, they understand my side. The coaches, all of them have been through it before with other players, so this is nothing new to anybody. I'm not the first to do this and I certainly won't be the last. I think right now everybody is just ready for me to get out there and play ball."

Woodson wanted a long-term deal and hoped the leverage of a holdout would force the Raiders to negotiate with him. But before he could talk about another deal or come to camp, he had to sign the tender offer.

The Raiders placed the franchise tag on Woodson in February. The 27-year-old Woodson, who's entering his seventh pro season, reportedly wants to be the highest paid cornerback in the NFL.

"I'd be lying if I said it wasn't about the money," Woodson said. "What player doesn't want to make a boat load of money? I'm one of those players. I didn't get done. I'm still going to make great money by any measure this year. We'll see what happens."

Woodson, who also missed all the offseason minicamps, participated in practice and meetings while he tried to catch up with his teammates.

"He says he's doing a lot of running," coach Norv Turner said. "That's the endurance part of it. Obviously, when you start covering people, change of direction and all that, it's totally different. But he looked really good. He's awful quick. He uses his hands extremely well. He looked real good."

Woodson reported to camp with no guarantee that the Raiders would negotiate a long-term deal, so as you can see, the tender predicated next offseason.

"We did everything we could do," Woodson said. "We wanted an assurance before I came in here that they were going to do a long-term deal, so as you can see, the tender wasn't signed and we couldn't do a deal. Now I'm here. I signed the tender. And I'm not worrying about the long term or anything like that right now."

Turner said Woodson wouldn't play in Thursday's exhibition finale against St. Louis. Woodson, however, expects to be in the starting lineup when the team opens the regular season on Sept. 12 at Pittsburgh.

"That's my plan," he said. "I don't want to be around and not be playing or starting. So I'm going to do everything I can to get myself ready so... when we play Pittsburgh, I'll be the starter."

Raiders: After three seasons away from the NFL, Deion Sanders signed with Baltimore on Tuesday.

The then-ten-year Pro Bowl cornerback passed his physical and signed a one-year contract laden with incentives. He will



Raiders cornerback Charles Woodson signed Oakland's one-year tender for \$8.782 million on Tuesday and joined the team for the first time after a 33-day holdout.

practice with the team for the first time Wednesday, and expects to play in the Ravens' season opener Sept. 12 against the Cleveland Browns.

Sanders, 37, played corner in his prime, but will be used as a fifth defensive back in Baltimore.

"This game is not all that complicated. We're going to try to ingrain him as quickly as we can," Ravens coach Brian Billick said Tuesday morning. "We have to make sure we know where he's at physically. He's here plenty early enough to have an impact."

Sanders has not played since the 2000 season with the Washington Redskins. He retired on the eve of the team's training camp in 2001, but the Ravens are convinced he's still got enough talent to contribute to their bid to defend the AFC North title and advance to the Super Bowl.

He spent the 2002 and 2003 seasons on CBS' NFL pregame show.

"Based on people we've talked to, opinions we trust, I'm sure there's no question he's going to be able to compete. At the level he competed before? There's very few of us that can do things as well as we did before. At 50, I can attest to that," Billick said.

"But what he will bring to the table for us will be substantial."

Falcons: Rookie cornerback DeAngelo Hall will miss six to 10 weeks with a small fracture on the left side of his hip.

Hall, the No. 8 overall pick and the first cornerback taken in April's draft, had been

designated as the starter on the left side three months ago by coach Jim Mora. Kevin Mathis will replace Hall when the Falcons visit Washington on Friday night.

Hall was injured Saturday night after batting down a pass intended for Cincinnati receiver Chad Johnson in the first quarter.

Though he remained in the game for the next four series, Hall told trainer Ron Medlin that he was in pain and an examination revealed the break.

Bucs/Giants: Tampa Bay sent guard Jason Whittle to the Giants for an undisclosed draft choice, returning the guard to the team with which he began his career.

Whittle played for New York from 1998-2002, starting all 14 games he played his final year. He signed last March as a free agent with the Bucs, where he started five games.

The Bucs cut 15 players, including Jason Garrett, who joined them as a free agent from the Giants this year. The 38-year-old Garrett played 11 seasons in the NFL with Dallas and New York, starting nine of the 40 games in which he appeared.

The Giants also waived placekicker Bill Gramatica, brother of Bucs' kicker Martin Gramatica. That makes Todd Francis New York's kicker.

Francis, 24, came to training camp third on the depth chart behind two-time incumbent Matt Bryant and Bill Gramatica.

Bryant was waived on the opening day of camp after reporting with a hamstring injury. Gramatica was the No. 1 kicker for the

opening preseason game, but he developed back spasms and that opened the door for Francis.

Francis hit all three of his field goal attempts in the past two games — 51, 42 and 24 yards — and all three extra points. His kickoffs have averaged almost 62 yards.

Patriots: New England released quarterback Jim Miller and placed veteran defensive lineman Dana Stubblefield on injured reserve.

Miller hadn't played in any of the Patriots' three exhibition games since signing as a free agent last month. He had played for Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Atlanta, Chicago and Tampa Bay before missing last season because of an injury to his right shoulder.

His departure leaves New England with Tom Brady, Rohan Davey and Kliff Kingsbury at quarterback. Stubblefield has an ankle injury. The 1997 NFL defensive player of the year signed as a free agent on Aug. 5 after playing for Oakland last season. In 11 seasons, he also played for San Francisco and Washington.

Cardinals: The Cardinals acquired running back Troy Hambrick and defensive end Peppi Zellner on Tuesday in a trade with the Oakland Raiders.

The Cardinals gave the Raiders an undisclosed conditional 2005 draft pick, the team announced.

Hambrick entered the league with the Dallas Cowboys in 2000 as an undrafted rookie free agent out of Savannah State and started all 16 games for Dallas last season.

He rushed for 972 yards and five touchdowns last year, but was released by the Cowboys on May 13 and signed with the Raiders four days later.

Zellner also broke into the league with the Cowboys. He was drafted by Dallas in 1999. He spent the 1999-2002 seasons with the Cowboys. He played in 16 games for the Redskins a year ago.

Seahawks: Reserve outside linebacker D.D. Lewis was placed on injured reserve Tuesday, ending his 2004 season.

Lewis is scheduled to undergo additional surgery on his left shoulder on Thursday. He never fully recovered from offseason surgery on the shoulder and had been out since Aug. 14.

He was being counted on to start for Chad Brown, who is expected to miss the first four games of the regular season with a broken left leg.

The third-year pro from Texas played in 15 games last season, starting five, and recorded a career-high 56 tackles. In Seattle's playoff loss to Green Bay, Lewis had 10 tackles.

Jets: Chad Pennington sees more than dollar signs in the rich contract extension he's about to get from the New York Jets.

The quarterback, entering his fifth season, is close to a deal that will net him about \$22 million in guaranteed money. His agent, Tom Condon, and Jets negotiator Mike Tannenbaum, who does not comment on contracts, were meeting Tuesday to finalize details. The contract is expected to run six to seven years.

Condon told The Associated Press: "There are still a few things to work out."

"Getting an extension is not going to make me play better or make me rest my head easier or anything like that," Pennington said after practice Tuesday.

Pennington, the 18th overall pick in the 2000 draft, has been the Jets' starter in 10 of 23 games. He took over a month in 2002 for the benched Vinny Testaverde and led the team's turnaround to win the AFC East crown and one playoff game. Pennington was the league's most efficient passer.

A year ago, he broke his wrist and hand in an exhibition game and was sidelined for four months. He took over the reins and their poor record improved Pennington's value.

SPORTS



Sanders passes physical,
leaves broadcast studio
to join Ravens, Page 31

"I thought I had good stuff today coming into the game."

Javier Vazquez
Starting pitcher

"There's a certain element of embarrassment, no question. It's hard to bounce back from."

Joe Torre
Manager

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"We can't worry about the Red Sox. We're got to worry about us."

Jorge Posada
Catcher

"Sure, we got punished badly last night, but winners never quit and quitters never win."

George Steinbrenner
Owner

New York state of shock

Yankees reeling after historic 22-0 drubbing by Cleveland in Bronx

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The hits and runs kept coming, spinning by on the scoreboard as fast as symbols on a slot machine.

It wasn't just a rout, it was an epic defeat, the most one-sided in the 101-year history of the New York Yankees. Cleveland's 22-0 victory Tuesday night matched the biggest post-1900 shutout margin in the major leagues, Pittsburgh's win at the Chicago Cubs on Sept. 16, 1975.

"There's a certain element of embarrassment, no question," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "It's hard to handle. It's something you have to bounce back from."

New York's \$180 million collection of All-Stars led the AL East by 10½ games on the morning of Aug. 16 and was expected to romp to its seventh straight division title. Now the Yankees are just 3½ games ahead of Boston for the first time since the morning of June 19. The Red Sox beat Anaheim 10-7 on Tuesday night for their 19th win in 23 games.

Omar Vizquel had six hits to tie the American League record for a nine-inning game, and Javier Vazquez (13-8) was knocked out

after 1½ innings, matching the shortest outing of his major league career.

Cleveland set a record for runs by an opponent in a Yankees' home game, finishing two shy of the most ever against the proud franchise, winner of a record 26 World Series titles.

After watching his original hometown team make the Yankees resemble hapless Little Leaguers, New York owner George Steinbrenner refused to answer questions as he departed the ballpark. On Wednesday, he issued a statement.

"Sure, we got punished badly last night, but winners never quit and quitters never win," Steinbrenner said. "New Yorkers never quit, and we reflect the spirit of New York."

Cleveland, which had lost eight straight games at Yankee Stadium since June 2001, scored three runs in each of the first three innings, then added six in the fifth. Jody Gerut and Victor Martinez hit three-run homers off Esteban Loaiza in the ninth.

"It's one game," the Yankees' Alex Rodriguez said. "If we win 22-0, we're not going to get credit for three victories."



Alex Rodriguez throws his bat after striking out to end the fourth inning against Cleveland on Tuesday night in New York. The Yankees' 22-0 loss tied for the biggest shutout defeat in the major leagues since 1900.

SEE SHOCK ON PAGE 25



Rough first round for Wimbledon champion Sharapova at U.S. Open

Page 27

U.S. goes head-to-head with Canada, comes up short in World Cup

Page 22



Florida battle takes center stage as college season begins in earnest

Page 29